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Mr Sacranie said: "The UK action committee acknowledges that these moves represent a step in the right direction. However, the action committee sincerely feels that at the time of the public affirmation of his acceptance of Islam and his intention not to risk further offence it would have been most appropriate for the author to take full measures to have the offensive book withdrawn from circulation altogether.

"Indeed, it is his religious duty to do so."

Police were last night searching for a woman aged 78 who vanished wearing a nightdress, dressing gown and knee-length fur coat. Edna Sims disappeared from the home of her daughter at Pentir, Gwynedd, between 4am and 10am yesterday in gales and heavy rain. An RAF helicopter, mountain rescue team and volunteers joined in the hunt for Mrs Sims, who is from Kent.

Search for baby heard returns to Britain

World chess

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DPP seeks greater advocacy rights for Crown solicitors

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ALLAN Green, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, is to press for solicitors in the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to be allowed to take cases in the crown court under the new machinery being set up to implement the government's legal reforms.

The move will trigger a new debate between the two branches of the legal profession over the breaking of the Bar's monopoly of rights of audience in the higher courts. Only members of the Bar have the right to appear in the crown court and the CPS has to brief barristers in private practice. Last year, this cost nearly £50 million.

Search for baby heart returns to Britain

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE search for an infant heart donor to save a baby in a London hospital was being concentrated in Britain yesterday after another child in Europe was given top priority for the operation.

Transplant specialists had extended the appeal on behalf of Christy Strachan, born nine days ago with an incurable heart defect, to the Continent. However, officials at the UK Transplant Co-ordinating Centre learned yesterday that a three-day-old baby in another European country was considered a more urgent case.

Christy is on life-support equipment at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and an aircraft of the St John Ambulance Brigade is on standby at Heathrow airport to transport an organ if one should become available.

Myc Riggsford, a spokesman for the centre, said yesterday: "Because of this sad coincidence we now cannot expect a donor to be found outside of Britain, but we remain hopeful."

"A British donor always has been the best prospect because of the shorter travelling time involved for the transplant surgeons," he said. European transplant co-ordinators, at Leiden in the Netherlands, had decided that a child awaiting the same operation in another, undisclosed country, was in more urgent need.

An infant heart did become available on Tuesday but was too big for either of the babies. Because there are relatively few potential donors, such as infants born with severe brain damage or who have been fatally injured in accidents, transplants of this kind are rarely performed.

Christy has hypoplastic left heart syndrome, one of the most common congenital heart defects, affecting about 200 babies a year in Britain. His parents, Mark and Tracey Strachan, of north London, are at his bedside.

Services Act 1990, however, solicitors (and others) can apply to be granted the right to take cases in the higher courts, subject to adequate training and codes of conduct.

Mr Green has now made clear that he wants CPS lawyers to be included in the application being prepared by the Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, for wider advocacy rights for solicitors. There are about 1,500 lawyers in the service: two-thirds are solicitors and the remainder are barristers.

"I am most anxious," Mr Green said, "to ensure that experienced crown prosecutors secure the right to present appropriate cases in the crown court in future."

If the Law Society application is successful, CPS solicitors would have crown court advocacy rights, but the barristers would not. The rights are therefore likely to be extended to include them.

The service said: "To undertake rights of audience in the CPS you must be a fully qualified solicitor or barrister. Our lawyers gain so much experience daily in the courts that it would be wrong to treat them differently from other members of their professional body."

Applications for rights of audience in the higher courts must be submitted to the Lord Chancellor's new advisory committee by April. The Law Society application is likely to face fierce opposition from the Bar, which disagrees with the granting of such rights to barristers who are employed and are not at the independent Bar.

A Bar Council official observed: "If you think last year (covering the passage of the bill) was fun, the next few years will be much greater."

The Bar is expected to try to ensure that solicitor-advocates are subject to the same rules as barristers: in particular the Bar wants solicitors to be bound by the cab-rank rule (that cases must be taken in strict rotation). The Bar is also likely to argue that solicitors

should not be allowed to prepare and present cases in the crown court, as they do in magistrates' courts.

The advisory committee considering the application will have to ensure, however, that the government's desire to break the Bar monopoly is not thwarted by rules.

The government's legal reforms, though now on the statute book, have not yet taken practical effect. The next stage, described by Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, during a Lords debate as a "choreographed quadrille", involves a complex process of consultation.

The new advisory committee, whose 16 members are now being appointed, is at the centre of this new machinery. The committee, chaired by Lord Griffiths, the Law Lord, will consult the professional bodies and the Director General of Fair Trading before drawing up new rules to govern the exercise of advocacy rights. The rules must then be approved by the four senior judges and Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor.

The Law Society is expected to submit a full claim for rights of audience for solicitors in all courts, but subject to rigorous training requirements. It is likely to seek immediate rights to conduct cases involving guilty pleas in the crown court and interlocutory applications in the High Court.



Green: CPS staff included in Law Society application

EC urged to outlaw racial discrimination

By OUR LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A JOINT move to enable victims of alleged racial discrimination in any EC member state to bring a case to court is being made by the Law Society and the Bar.

Leaders of the two professional bodies have written to the European Commission saying that European community law should outlaw racial discrimination. They want a European community directive requiring members to legislate on the elimination of racial discrimination.

They also say that the European Convention on Human Rights should be amended to include a primary right to bring a case to the European Court of Justice on the grounds of racial discrimination alone. The letter points out that although there has

been statutory racial discrimination law in the UK for more than 20 years, European legislation does not contain similar rights.

Peter Cresswell, QC, chairman of the Bar Council, said: "European legislation should give members of ethnic minority groups the same level of legal protection as they receive in this country. I hope that with the support of both branches of the legal profession a much needed change will be brought about."

Tony Holland, president of the Law Society, said: "Racial discrimination is one of the scourges of our time. I hope that by using the experience of the legal remedies in this country we can contribute to eliminating racial discrimination in all member states."

A welcome mat for scientists' dirty boots

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS at Shell's Sittingbourne Research Centre have been encouraged to come back from their holidays with mud on their boots — and the more exotic the source of the mud, the better.

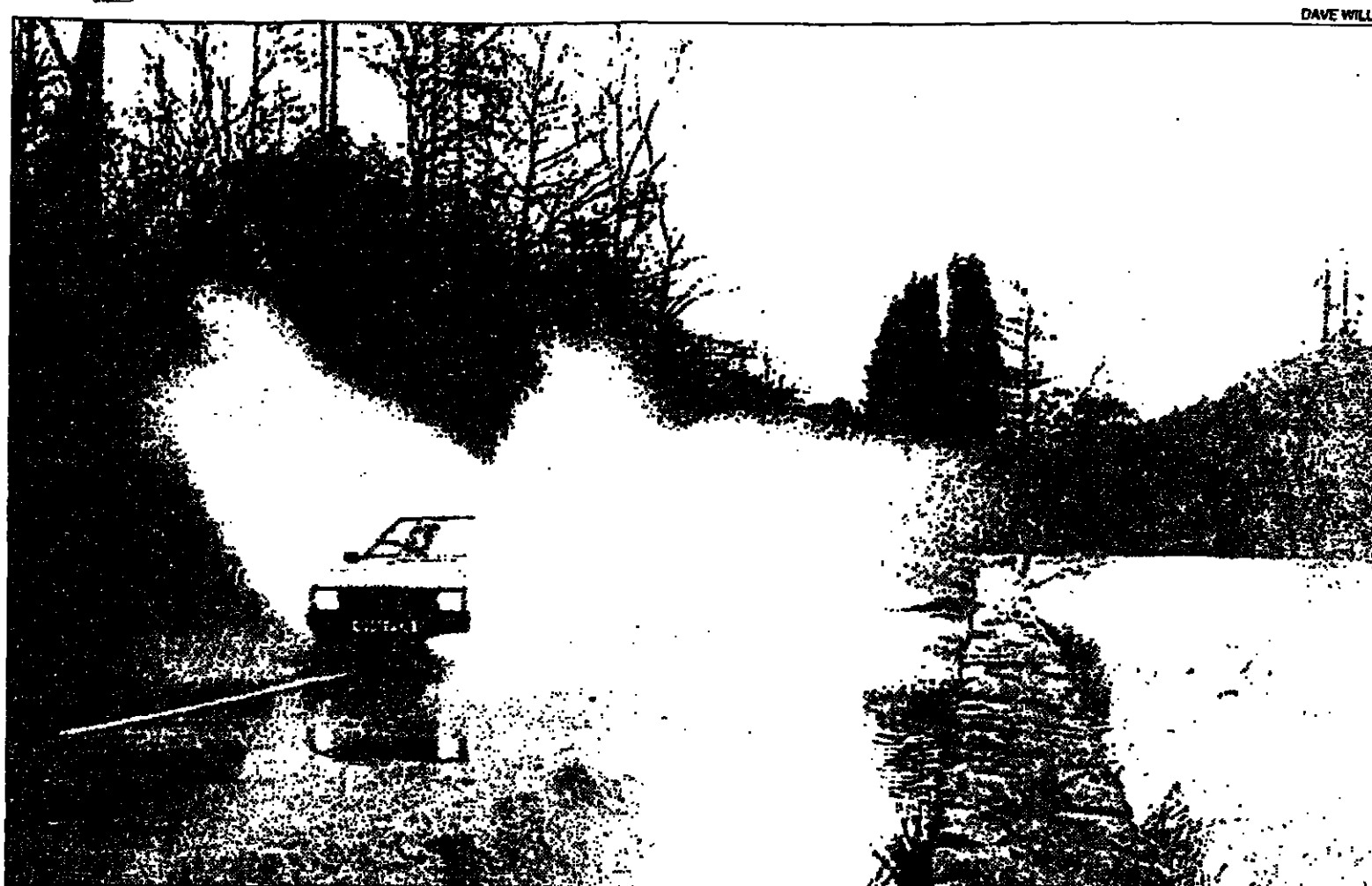
The soil samples are screened for micro-organisms that may produce useful chemicals, the latest issue of *Chemistry in Britain* reports. Shell is particularly interested in organisms that make stagnant pools of water feel slimy, sure evidence that a natural polymer is being produced.

Polymers are used in drilling oil wells and in preparing them for production. During drilling, fluids are used to carry away the cuttings from the drill bit. Viscous fluids thickened by polymers are effective, but they must also flow smoothly so that they can be pumped away.

The structure of natural polymers makes them more effective than man-made ones because they possess hydrogen bonds that increase rigidity. When pumped, the molecules tend to line up, reducing the viscosity and making it easy to pump the slurry away.

Some natural polymers usefully change their properties at different temperatures. When cold, they are viscous, carrying the slurry out of the well during drilling. In contact with the warmer oil after the well has been drilled, the polymers "melt", ensuring that they do not block the pores in the rock to slow down the flow of oil or gas.

Shell scientists are constantly looking for new organisms that may offer better natural polymers. They often find the best varieties right outside the laboratory.



Driving rain: a motorist near Conistown in the Lake District sending up sheets of spray yesterday after heavy rain and strong winds made many of Cumbria's country roads little more than rivers, costing bookmakers £10,000 in "wet Christmas" bets

Climber safe in all-British rescue

By KERRY GILL

DAVID Wharton, who was badly injured and almost buried alive when he fell 400ft after being hit by an avalanche on Christmas Day, yesterday had the dubious honour of being the first English climber to be rescued from a Scottish mountain with the help of a Welsh rescue team.

Mr Wharton, aged 27, of Derby, who survived for 24 hours trapped 3,400ft up Braerich in the Cairngorms, Britain's third highest mountain, was spotted by a mountain rescue team from RAF St Athan in Wales who were on the 4,252ft peak on a training exercise.

Brian Ottewill, aged 42, Mr Wharton's companion, battled through the night in atrocious conditions to protect his friend and raise the alarm. He descended to a bothy, gathered survival bags and struggled back up the mountain to attend to Mr Wharton. In spite of often

being blinded by snow storms he then went back down the mountain, navigating by compass, to call rescue services.

Mr Ottewill last night said he had since spoken to Mr Wharton by telephone. "He gave me a right blasting and asked what had taken me so long. I knew then he was OK," he said.

"Dave was about 100ft ahead of me. Suddenly the snow he was on started crackling and a big slab of it, about 40ft square, broke away. I stepped to the side and was safe, but Dave went whirling past me and another 300ft down the mountain."

"When I got to him he was conscious but dazed. He was in great pain and could not walk. I dragged him down the slope to a big boulder on a skyline which I knew would be a good landmark for rescuers," he said.

Mr Ottewill put his jacket on Mr Wharton and left him with coffee and food before

going to the bothy where they had spent the night. He returned with two sleeping bags.

"I zipped him up completely, leaving only a small breathing hole. I built a makeshift shelter in front of him with rucksacks and gear and any small boulders I could find, to act as a windbreak. I also took him a slab of Christmas cake which we had left," Mr Ottewill said.

Back at the bothy Mr Ottewill made himself a meal. He was exhausted but in spite of his condition set out for help, sometimes unable to see because of the blizzards, walking about 20 miles in 10 hours.

Mr Ottewill arrived at a lodge but found the telephone was not working. He flagged down a passing motorist. "It was a great feeling when I heard Dave on the phone more than 24 hours after the avalanche, asking what had taken me so long," he said.

Rescue teams fought through blizzards and winds

of up to 90mph to reach Mr Wharton, who had suffered serious leg and back injuries.

Rescuers, including four teams and two RAF helicopters, set out soon after dawn. The four-man team from Wales was first on the scene after a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth dropped them within a mile of where Mr Wharton lay.

Although Mr Wharton was conscious the team did not have a special stretcher with which to take him off the mountain, so another helicopter flew in more rescuers and equipment.

The climbers had been close to the summit of Braerich when the avalanche happened. Last night the RAF rescue co-ordination centre said that the rescue had been complicated. "The casualty's companion did a really heroic job. He saved his life," a spokesman said.

Towyn lashed, page 1

Like all small children she wants lots of things for Christmas.



- She wants food.
- She wants vaccinations.
- She wants clean water to drink.
- She wants firewood.
- She wants chickens to tend.
- She wants a place to call home.
- She wants to learn to read and write.
- She wants your help to help herself.
- She wants a life for Christmas.

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World chess match saved for London

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

PROMPT action by supporters of chess in London has saved for the capital the all-British qualifying match for the next world championship after the collapse of arrangements for it to be held in Indonesia.

The eight-game match between Nigel Short and Jon Speelman will start in London on January 27, although the pitting together of the two British contenders so early in the championship remains controversial.

The rescue operation, arranged in the few days before Christmas, comes as the world championship final between Gary Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov nears its close in Lyons, and follows the Indonesians' withdrawal from the next cycle of qualification tournaments.

Seven matches between the world's top 14 grandmasters (apart from the two Lyons finalists) had been planned to start simultaneously at the end of January in Jakarta. Fide, the world chess federation, had announced firm dates, prize funds and pairings for the matches, which were to start the process for deciding the 1993 world title challenger.

A week ago this changed dramatically, when the pro-

spective Jakarta organisers pulled the plug on the undertaking because of an unexpected evaporation of funds, and the seven matches of the qualifying cycle were abandoned.

The host for the match rearranged for London is Watson Farley and Williams, the City solicitors who for three years have supported a tournament to foster young British talent. The match will take place at the firm's premises.

Duncan Lawrie, the merchant bank that has sponsored the British Olympic team, has put up a £5,000 winner's purse, the amount stipulated by the world fed-

eration. All other costs will be borne by a consortium of Leigh Interests, the Chelsea arts club and the British Chess Federation.

The rescue illustrates the strength of British chess and the loyalty of its backers. In the chess Olympics of 1984 and 1986 the English team won silver medals, behind the Soviet Union. In 1988 and 1990, England shared second position behind the Soviet Union and the US.

In the coming contest, both Short and Speelman have diehard supporters. Short's tournament record is generally superior, and he has consistently achieved a higher international ranking.

Speelman, though, has an excellent score in recent games against Short and is the only English player in organised British competitions to have reached the world semi-final.

The arrangements end frustration that the two were having to play so far from home, but not concern over the pitting against each other of the two leading British grandmasters. Apart from the Soviet Union, England is the only country with more than one player in the qualifying competition.

The speed with which the London leg has been arranged is emphasised by the fact that several other matches lack a venue. The qualifier between Korchnoi (Switzerland) and Sax (Hungary) has been secured in the Dutch town of Wijk aan Zee for the end of January, and those between Anand (India) and Ydassin (Soviet Union) and Nikolic (Yugoslavia) will be played in India and Yugoslavia, but there is no clue to venues for matches between Timman (Netherlands) and Hubner (Germany), Ivanchuk and Dreev, and Yusupov and Dolmatov, all of the Soviet Union.



Short: achieved superior record in tournaments



Speelman: has excellent score in recent games



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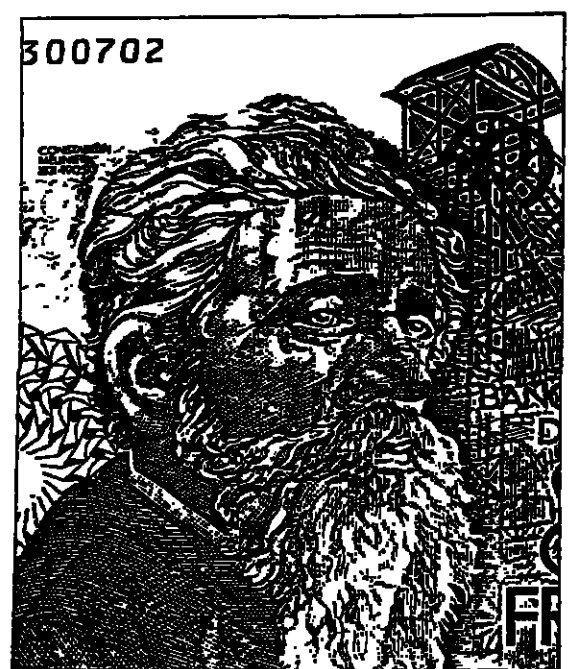
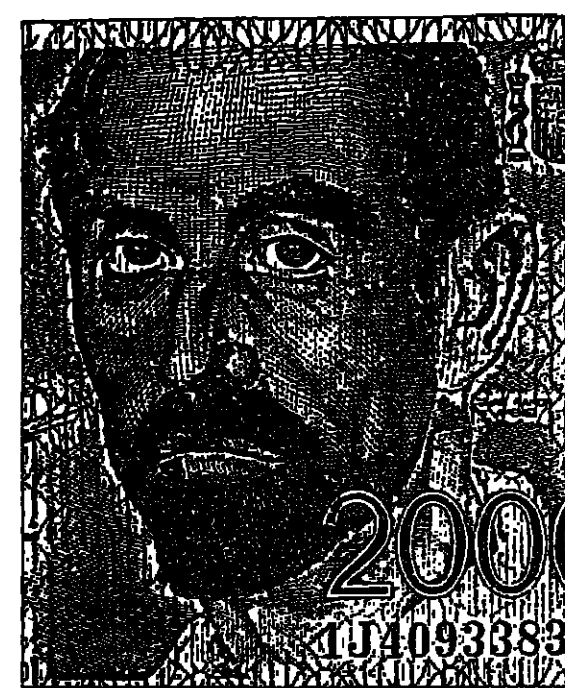
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Killings bring proposals to boost security in hospitals

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to protect hospital patients and health service staff from violent attacks are announced today by the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts.

The proposals were prompted by the murder of two consultant plastic surgeons in Pinderfields hospital, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, last month, and by evidence of increasing numbers of assaults within the health service.

Crime prevention experts will help to improve hospital security and electronic surveillance equipment is likely

to be more widely introduced. Home Office advisers, police, security specialists and health service managers will attend a seminar arranged by the association and Crime Concern, a charity that receives government funding, in February.

Philip Hunt, director of the association, said yesterday: "The recent spate of attacks on hospital premises highlights the importance of greater vigilance within the health service. We want the NHS to have the most modern techniques and expertise to ensure the safety of patients and staff."

Meningitis vaccines to be tested

Sean Baker, aged two months, will today become the first baby to be tested with a new vaccine against meningitis.

The baby, from Churchdown, Gloucestershire, is one of 320 infants taking part in the health district's trial of four vaccines.

The babies will be given injections every three months and their immunity against the potentially fatal disease will be tested in a year. The vaccines are already in use in Finland, Canada and the United States.

Hunt for teenager

Police are searching for Ahmed Shahpall, aged 16, who disappeared on Christmas day after saying he was going to clear leaves. They fear he may have drowned in the swollen river running through the garden in Balsall Heath, Birmingham.

Officer accused

A detective inspector faces a disciplinary enquiry after claims that he used abusive language at a Christmas party at Doncaster police station attended by many officers and their families.

Murder charge

Robert Warden, aged 47, of Woking, Surrey, was remanded in custody accused of murdering Kenneth MacLean, aged 26, after a brawl in a public house in the town on Christmas eve.

Portfolio winners

Two readers shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Douglas Littlewood, of Barham, Kent, and John Mollent, of Uttoxeter, South Humberside, each receive £1,000.

British Jews prepare their defences against an attack by missionaries

THE Decade of Evangelism has inspired Christians throughout Britain with renewed faith in the Gospel and the Word of Jesus Christ. With missionary zeal, evangelicals are working on plans to "mobilise the retired", and to attract the young on housing estates with Christian roadshows.

The decade, backed by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist and other leading churches, has, however, invoked fears among non-Christian communities and specifically among the Jews. Rabbi Shmuel Arkush, Midlands director of Lubavitch, a Jewish educational organisation, heads Operation Judaism, a project sponsored by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the office of the Chief Rabbi and the Lubavitch Foundation, to defend the Jewish community against "missionary attack".

Rabbi Arkush called on Christian evangelists to ease off in their attempts to convert Jews to Christianity. He said: "There are unfortunately a large number of missionary organisations targeting just Jewish people. The Jewish community is extremely fearful. It is causing a lot of hurt and upset and is ruining relationships which have been formed between the communities. The whole of the evangelical establishment is moving forward to gain more adherents to Christianity, which is fair enough. We do not object to that. What we do object to is that there are a number of mainstream evangelical groups specifically targeting Jews."

He said that as a result some Jews were receiving psychiatric help. Some evangelists were over-zealous in convincing Jews that they would be sentencing themselves to eter-

The Decade of Evangelism about to begin has inspired the Christian community but is viewed with fear by non-Christians. Ruth Gledhill reports in the second of two articles

nal damnation if they refuse to accept the Christian creed. "I consider it to be totally out of place that anyone should be telling the Jews about religion. The job of the Jews should be telling everyone else." Quoting from Isaiah, he said: "It is the Jews that are the light to the nations."

Rabbi Arkush said Christians should seek out lapsed Christians. "There are millions, as I understand. Or they should go to people with no faith whatsoever, of which I understand there are hundreds of millions."

He singled out the Church's Ministry among the Jews, whose patron is the Archbishop of Canterbury, for criticism. "It is a very active mission specifically to the Jews," John Fieldsend, who works for the ministry and described himself as a Messianic Jew, lost most of his family in the Holocaust. He said: "We have been going for



Coates: most churches are losing members

200 years. It is part of our ministry to witness to the Lordship of Jesus to all people. We have a special concern for Jewish people, in combating anti-semitism and in proclaiming the truth of the Gospel as we see it.

"As far as the Decade of Evangelism goes, we are not planning anything in particular because we are working at this constantly. We try not to use the word conversion. We believe a Jewish person who comes to faith through Jesus remains a Jew."

The words evangelical, evangelist and evangelism are frequently confused. According to *The Oxford English Dictionary*, evangelical means of or pertaining to the Gospel; evangelist means one of the writers of the four Gospels; evangelism is preaching or promulgation of the Gospel and evangelisation is the action or work of preaching the Gospel. An evangelist can also be one who preaches the Gospel.

Many traditional Anglicans and Roman Catholics perceive evangelicals as people in the house or new churches, the pentecostal and the black-led churches. Some of these churches, while co-operating with the Decade, argue that evangelism is what they have been doing for decades already.

Gerald Coates, director of the Pioneer Trust, which cares for a network of house or new churches, said: "The evangelical wing is the only wing of the church that is growing. There has been a massive haem-

orrhaging of membership in most churches. Only the Baptists have come out better. That is due to the loss of the Gospel and loss of respect for the teaching of scripture."

He said the new churches, pentecostal and black-led churches were the fastest growing. Mr Coates said that the growth represented a rejection of the morality of the Sixties and a return to orthodox faith and behaviour. "The decade of evangelism was of great interest to us because it means a recovery of the Gospel and of social action done in the name of Christ rather than just the name of religion. But it is not of as great interest to the new, black-led and pentecostal churches as others because these are wholly evangelistic anyway. That is what has got us where we are."

The Rev Ian Coffey, a Baptist minister seconded to the Evangelical Alliance as field director, said the alliance aimed to co-ordinate activities. It is looking at ways of "mobilising the retired" and is considering setting up mobile units, along the lines of the BBC *Radio One Roadshow*. Young people on housing estates, who would not normally want to go near a church, would be the target.

Michael Green, author of the recently published *Evangelism through the local Church*, said the decade was prompted by the "spirit of God" because the idea hit churches worldwide simultaneously.

He said: "Let us spread the Gospel with the boldness and freshness of the early Christians, and not stay cool and detached and dead as so much Western Christianity is." He said that the house churches were most capable of handling a vast incursion.

House burglars home in on easy pickings

By WILLIAM CASH

BEFORE going away over Christmas many home owners will have taken elaborate precautions to safeguard their treasured possessions. However, a new breed of burglar is abroad in search of bounty for which bank vaults and safes offer no protection.

Victims can return to find the very fabric of their houses missing after thieves have carried off period chimney pieces, mahogany banisters, cast-iron spiral staircases, hand-dyed wallpaper or Elizabethan oak panelling. Meanwhile, their Bang and Olufsen music system will be sitting unmolested in a corner.

Architectural theft is a multi-million pound business and highly organised gangs take advantage of public ignorance about the huge prices period features can fetch.

Phil Davies, of English Heritage's London division, says that a marble chimney piece can set for up to £25,000 and a Georgian front door case £12,000. Victorian paving slabs are being dug up and sold at £50 a square yard.

Mr Davies says the problem is rampant and Scotland Yard has revamped the arts and antiques squad to tackle it. "It is much wider than London. Historic cities such as Manchester, Bristol and Liverpool, which have many Georgian buildings, are being plundered by both professional gangs and blatant opportunists."

The professionals subscribe to art and conservation magazines to locate easy targets and usually steal on commission. A favourite technique is to pose as an art



Rich rewards: growing interest in architectural restoration has led to booming prices for stolen fixtures

restoration firm and confidently load up a lorry in broad daylight. Amateur thieves often damage or even destroy the objects they are trying to steal.

Thief from buildings is not new. Lead was popular with thieves in the 18th and 19th centuries but now that the price of lead has dropped only ill-informed crooks strip lead from roofs.

Mr Davies says that while marble chimney pieces are the most prized haul, many features are fair game. He

wants the public to be made more aware of what their fixtures are worth and cites the example of a carved Georgian doorcase, bought by a dealer in good faith for £300 and put on sale in his architectural salvage yard at £1,000. Its real worth, Mr Davies says, was £1,200.

Rosemary MacQueen, in charge of listed building protection for Westminster council, says that smart city offices are also favourite targets. "A fireplace in a swish West End office could

fetch up to £100,000. People have no idea how ruthless and efficient these thieves are."

Philip Saunders, who runs *Trace* magazine, which circulates pictures of stolen art, says that such high prices are a new phenomenon. "When you look at a set of four 17th century lead urns, the sort you get in a country house garden, you'd be lucky to get £500 ten years ago - now they are worth £10,000."

However, it is not just listed buildings that are at

risk. Public house furnishings, especially ornamental glass, and the decorative glass panels seen in many older suburban houses are popular with opportunistic thieves. Many houses, in for example the London areas of Bloomsbury, Kensington, Marylebone and Islington may look quite plain from the outside but inside are splendid rooms that offer rich pickings.

Det Inspector Peter Craven, of the West Yorkshire arts and antiques squad, says

that the nerve of the criminals is extraordinary. Thieves have used a hydraulic crane to uproot a set of wrought iron gates from a local country house.

Two weeks ago a gang stripped off the slate roof of the new visitor centre at Stump Cross Caverns, North Yorkshire. They were caught only when the lorry broke down three miles away because of the weight of the load.

"It is big business now that the value of architectural items has risen so dramatically. The criminals today are very discerning and like to offload their goods to America, via South Ireland, and Italy, where they are in great demand," he added.

Mr Saunders says that the owner of any period house is at risk, with items from the grounds as desirable as those inside. Thieves have walked into people's gardens and helping themselves to fountains, urns, bird baths or statues. "People are not taking care of their properties. They just don't think thieves will be interested in coming to steal their fireplaces or statues."

Sir Thomas Ingilby, owner of Ripley castle in North Yorkshire, is so concerned about the recent surge of thefts that he has set up a historic house hotline, that links more than 500 houses, to encourage joint surveillance. He is dismayed by the gullibility of so many people, citing the example of a statue of Mercury that vanished from outside a local council office. Its disappearance went unreported for four days as people assumed it had gone for cleaning.

Tiny chip could be the smart answer

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRONICS engineers have designed a "neuron chip" the size of a garden beetle and with the processing power of three miniature computers.

The device, which in a few years is expected to cost less than £1, could be the key technology that architects and builders have been searching for to create truly "smart" homes and factories, according to independent experts.

The chip has been created by Echelon Corporation of Palo Alto, California, which was set up by Mike Markkula, a co-founder of Apple Computers who is regarded as something of a guru in the computing world. According to the company, light bulbs and switches that are individually controlled by a neuron chip may soon be for sale.

These will be capable of communicating with thousands of other neuron chips throughout a home, in applications from air conditioning

and heating systems to burglar and fire alarm units. In the event of a fire, sensors note an increase in light levels and turn the lighting down, at the same time the heating system's sensors detect an increase in temperatures and make adjustments.

Elsewhere fire alarm sensors switch on sprinklers and call the fire brigade while other neuron chips calculate the safest way out of the building and illuminate exit signs along this route.

The neuron chips, which are to be made by Toshiba and Motorola, two of world's biggest electronics companies, could be installed in headlights on cars and could spell the end of complicated and confusing wiring systems.

Applications are being studied by some of the world's biggest businesses concerned with home and industrial devices, including AT&T and the Sony Corporation, along with firms such as Leax Ltd of

London, which specialises in lighting control.

Bill Gorski, senior hardware manager at Landis and Gyr in Buffalo, Illinois, and a subsidiary of the Swiss company that makes card phones in Britain, said the breakthrough achieved was the phenomenon known as "peer-to-peer" protocol, at an attractive price.

The peer-to-peer protocol embodied in the neuron chip allows devices made by different manufacturers to communicate with others as if they

were made in the same factory, it is claimed.

"People have spent many dollars and much time in trying to develop the operating system and protocol that will allow little devices made by different companies to talk to each other," Mr Gorski said. "Up till now this has not been possible without a great deal of time, error and confusion. The peer-to-peer protocol allows these devices to talk to each other. It takes things beyond the master and slave," he said.

Harman sets target for 'classless' health care

HEALTH targets intended to close the gap between the rich and poor were set out yesterday by Harriet Harman, the shadow health minister.

"If Mr Major believes in a classless society, he should recognise that how long you live and how healthy you are depends on your class," she said. Her challenge was based on the General Household Survey published this month. The results showed that: □ unskilled men were more likely to suffer prolonged ill-

ness than professional people; □ 26 per cent of unskilled men and 32 per cent of unskilled women had illnesses that limited their lifestyle compared with 10 per cent of professional men and 15 per cent of professional women; and □ differences between the health of the classes were at record levels.

Ms Harman said: "The prime minister should set targets for a phased reduction in health inequalities."

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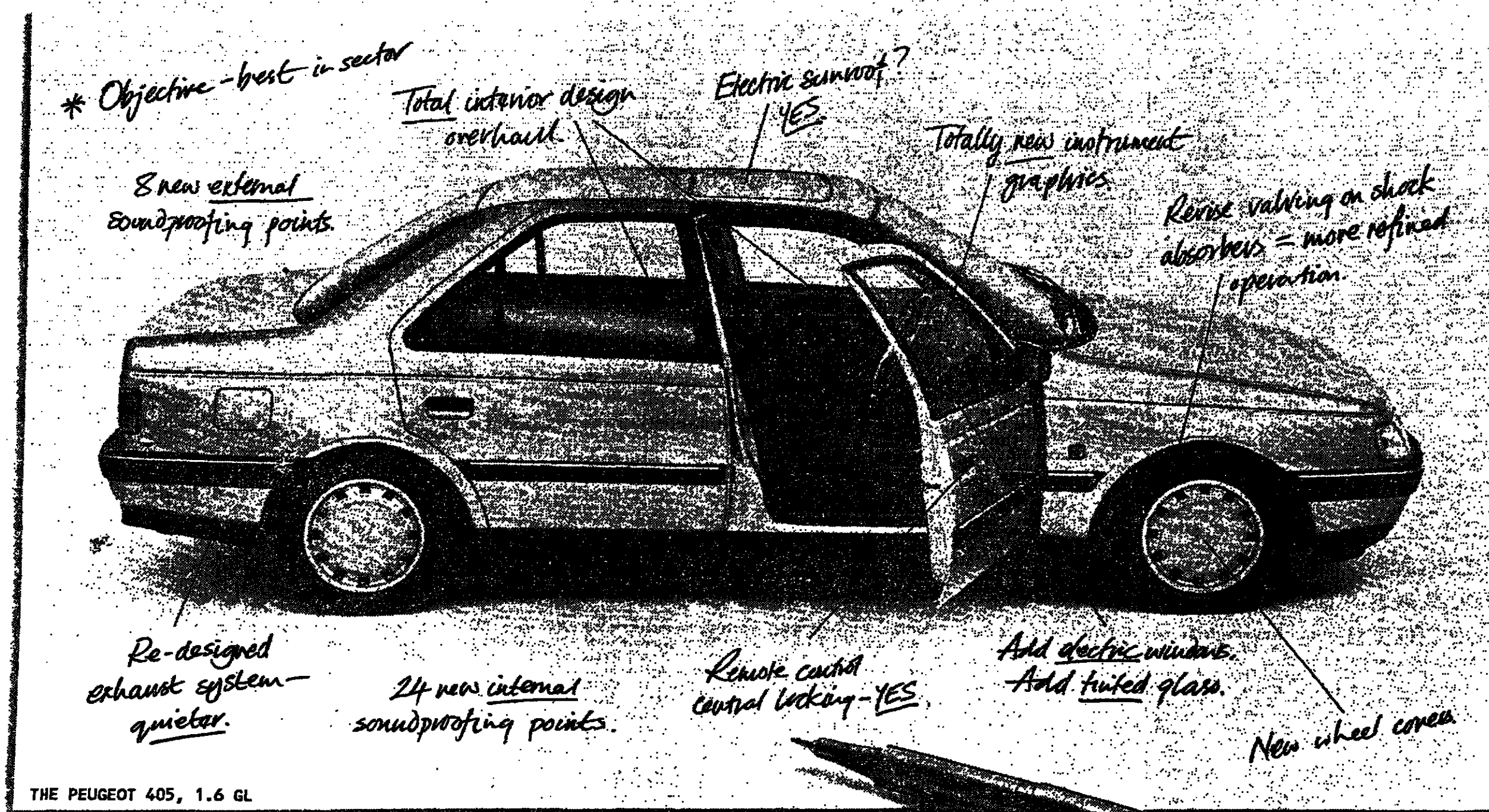
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This commitment has resulted in a 1991 405 GL 1.6 with not only electric front windows, electric sunroof and remote control central locking, but also a driver's seat lumbar support adjustment, tinted glass and new wheel covers.

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But the designers didn't stop there. They've been under the car, and have come up with a quieter exhaust system, and new valves on the shock absorbers to give a more refined operation.

To reduce noise transference to the passenger compartment they have also treated 8 areas around the car with the most up-to-date sound-proofing materials, producing remarkable results. Though not remarkable enough for a Peugeot

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Gorba
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Concern as
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Albania

SECTION
PROPOSAL BY THE DIRECTOR
THE MODIFICATION OF
APPOINTMENT OF
SEWERAGE UNDER

Statement of the reason
1. Condition of the sewerage system of the town of...
2. These charges...
3. The Director General proposes the...
4. The Director General also proposes...
5. It is proposed that these multiple...
6. Although the proposed scheme...
7. As part of the proposed revision...
8. The Director General proposes the...
9. The Director General also proposes...
10. Any representation about, or objection...
11. The Director General of Water Services...
12. The Director General of Water Services...

مركزنا في الأصل

Gorbachev picks loyal bureaucrat as deputy

From MARY DELEVSKY IN MOSCOW

NIKOLAI Ryzhkov's heart attack and the unexpected nomination of a traditional communist bureaucrat for the new post of vice-president leave President Gorbachev's leadership sadly diminished. "Look at those we have lost — Shevardnadze and Ryzhkov," said a reformist deputy yesterday. "And look at Gennadi Yanayev."

His inference was not only that Mr Gorbachev had chosen a Russian and a traditionalist rather than a non-Russian or a known reformer as his deputy. He also had in mind the discrepancy in stature. Mr Yanayev spent three years in charge of the official trade union movement before joining the party secretariat in July. Before that, he worked in the party apparatus and before that in the youth organisation.

He is regarded as completely loyal to Mr Gorbachev to the point of being regarded as a "yes man". His manner — assured, open and quick — belongs to the era of glasnost,

but his language does not. Accepting the nomination, he referred to "democratic and patriotic forces" (as though the two were different, as they are to Russian conservatives). He emphasised his allegiance to the party — "I am a communist to the depths of my soul" — and paid tribute to the army.

His enthusiasm for the market economy was muted and supplemented with assurances that he would defend people's right to "social protection", the code for maintaining state subsidies and ensuring that no one suffers in the transition.

Yegor Ligachev, the now-retired doyen of the party traditionalists, said he thoroughly approved of Mr Yanayev, "a good communist and intelligent."

Mr Gorbachev may have chosen Mr Yanayev, who is certain to gain the necessary majority of congress votes in the overnight election, for precisely the qualities cited by Mr Ligachev. At a time when the Soviet leader is being criticised for ruining the country and selling out to the West, the choice of a presentable traditionalist makes sense.

It could relieve the pressure from conservatives, who are well represented at the congress, and from those craving order at almost any cost. At the same time, it could give Mr Gorbachev a degree of freedom on economic reform.

A less complimentary judgement would be that Mr Gorbachev has again shown his preference for compromise at almost any cost and his reluctance to appoint anyone of the calibre to become a rival.

Some in yesterday's audience compared Mr Yanayev's manner and policies with those of Mr Ryzhkov — described at the end of yesterday as being "in a stable condition" in a Moscow hospital. The crucial difference, however, is that Mr Ryzhkov had a mind of his own and the ability to make life uncomfortable for Mr Gorbachev.

Among his victories were Mr Gorbachev's agreement to drop his preference for the more radical Shatalin economic programme; and the pledge contained in the compromise programme that government and state agencies would not be abolished until new organs could take over.

Greece was also worried by the fact that, despite pledges of liberalisation by Tirana, demonstrators were sentenced to stiff prison terms.

Concern as more flee Albania

From REUTER IN ATHENS

GREECE expressed concern over reports of murder and stiff jail terms in neighbouring Albania as more refugees fled across the border yesterday.

More than 100 Albanians, mostly ethnic Greeks, have crossed into Greece in the past week, fleeing from political turmoil in the communist country, the state-run Athens news agency ANA said.

The agency also cited unconfirmed reports that three ethnic Greeks and an Albanian soldier were shot dead by guards while trying to flee into Greece early this month.

A Greek government spokesman appeared to be referring to these reports when he said the "multiplying number of murders of members of the Greek minority in Albania" was causing concern.

Athens says about 350,000 ethnic Greeks live in Albania. Greece was also worried by the fact that, despite pledges of liberalisation by Tirana, demonstrators were sentenced to stiff prison terms.



Exiles still: the former King Michael of Romania looking on as his daughter, Princess Sophie, inspects a passport in Bucharest yesterday before they were deported, less than 12 hours after returning to the country

Man in the news

Absent king with longing to serve

By TIM JUDAH

OF ALL eastern Europe's monarchs in waiting only King Michael has actually ruled in his own country. King Michael, aged 69, a Hohenzollern, is the son of King Carol II who did much to bring the reputation of the German-backed monarchy in Romania to disrepute.

King Michael, who abdicated twice, was a notorious womaniser and admirer of Mussolini. King Michael could not be more different from his father. In 1944, at the age of 22, he staged a coup against Romania's fascist dictator, Ion Antonescu, and in exile he has built up a reputation for honesty, hardwork and modesty.

He abdicated on December 30, 1947, after Romania's Soviet-backed communists

threatened him and surrounded Bucharest's royal palace with troops. He and his mother were allowed to leave Romania with little but their clothes and four cars. Since then King Michael has had a passion for wartime Jeeps.

In exile, he has run a chicken farm in Hertfordshire, been a test pilot in the United States, worked for Learjet, started an electronics company and also been a stockbroker. For most of his life in exile he has lived in Switzerland. In 1948 he married a French princess, Anne of Bourbon-Parma. They have five daughters.

King Michael has always maintained that, because of the way he was forced to abdicate, he is the legal sovereign of Romania. He still holds his old Romanian passport. He is named as King Michael of Romania in the Danish diplomatic passport with which he tried to enter Romania on Christmas Day.

Since last December's revolution, in which the Ceausescu regime was overthrown, King Michael has let it be known that his dearest wish is to visit his country, then to visit the tombs of his ancestors, and, lastly, to serve if called upon. Indeed, there is growing interest in Romania in the man who has already played an important part in his country's history and may yet have a role.

King criticized, page 18

Observers allege Serbia poll fraud

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BELGRADE

OPPOSITION parties and Serbian expatriates acting as election observers yesterday accused Serbia's ruling communists of widespread vote-tampering in the republic's first free elections in 50 years.

The communists, recently renamed Socialists and led by Slobodan Milosevic, crushed opposition parties in the first-round ballot on December 9 and in run-offs on Sunday.



Milosevic refused to let expatriate Serbs vote

winning a total of 194 seats in the republic's 250-seat parliament.

"Because of all the irregularities that accompanied them, the Serbian elections would not be considered legal in the West," said Zoran Hodzera, a political consultant from Washington and a member of a delegation of Americans and Canadians of Serbian origin monitoring the vote.

The Socialists refused to bow to opposition pressure to allow expatriate Serbs to vote

in the elections. Serbs living outside Yugoslavia are generally considered opponents of communist rule.

The delegation was headed by United States Congresswoman Helen Bentley, who would submit a report on the polls to the House of Representatives, Mr Hodzera said.

He cited a sudden 10 per cent increase in the number of registered voters on December 9 and evidence of voting without identification documents as being "particularly serious", given that 57 Socialist candidates won by margins of less than 10 per cent in the first round.

He also criticised what he said were attempts by officials to intimidate voters and bias against opposition parties in state-run media during the election campaign. That proved the elections "were not really democratic", he said.

A separate team of electoral observers from the National Republican Institute left Belgrade on Christmas day saying they would publish their findings on the elections in Washington next month.

Midrag Skulic, a spokesman for the Serbian Renewal Movement, the largest opposition party that won 19 seats, said specific complaints of irregularities had been lodged with the state electoral commission.

Serbian authorities have said that some voters were allowed to register at their polling places on election day due to incomplete electoral rolls and have denied any electoral wrongdoing.

Moscow's troops add to crime in Germany

From REUTER IN BONN

SOVIET troops in what was East Germany commit up to 30 crimes daily and 15 to 30 soldiers desert every week, the Federal Crime Office said yesterday.

"There is a striking emergence of criminality involving Soviet units as well as growing number of deserters," Hans-Ludwig Zachert, the organisation's chief, said in an interview with the Bonn daily Die Welt. Transformed by German unification from an untouchable occupation force to a demoralised anachronism, 380,000 Soviet troops are due to be withdrawn from east Germany by 1994. Discipline in the ranks is reported to be rife.

Herr Zachert said east German police registered between 20 and 30 crimes involving Soviet soldiers every day, often robberies of shops and homes stocked with modern consumer goods bought since unification in October.

Fifteen to 30 Soviet soldiers deserted each week, he added, without saying how many had been caught and turned over to military authorities. Soviet officials have acknowledged desertions but deny they are a serious problem.

Soviet troops also caused numerous traffic accidents by reckless driving of army vehicles, Herr Zachert said. "All this colours the people's sense of security... and has led to a lot of anxiety and also great antipathy toward the (Soviet) army," he said.

Many Germans grateful for the reformist Kremlin's acceptance of unity have donated millions of pounds in aid for the shortage-stricken Soviet Union or responded to charity appeals to take in young soldiers at Christmas. But some east Germans now vent on antagonism pent up during 40 years of communist rule. Soldiers are often ignored, dressed down or even assaulted in public.

Herr Zachert said civilian crime in east Germany also was soaring.

Socialist 'plot' is exposed in Seoul

Seoul — South Korea's main internal security agency claimed yesterday that it had thwarted a socialist conspiracy to overthrow the government. It alleged that the plot had direct links to North Korea.

The Agency for National Security Planning said it had charged 31 people, including university students and a primary school teacher, and had issued warrants for the arrest of 70 others for violating harsh anti-communist laws.

The security agency said that those arrested were members of an underground body set up in 1988 to support North Korea's proposals to reunify the two Koreas, divided in the 1950s. The agency said that the underground organisation used a nationwide radical student alliance as "a front for revolutionary movement".

Surinam 'calm'

Cayenne, French Guiana — The former Dutch colony of Surinam in South America remained calm after a military coup, a Dutch diplomat said. "Essential services continue to function and there has been no announcement of a curfew," the diplomat said by telephone from Paramaribo, the capital. (Reuters)

Explosion claim

Rome — A Christmas morning explosion in Rome was aimed at Vatican Radio and not an American servicemen's club, according to a caller who claimed responsibility for an anarchist group. The blast caused slight damage to the club and the Vatican Radio building. There were no injuries. (Reuters)

Cost of pleasure

Tokyo — Japanese companies spent an estimated record 4,980 billion yen (£19.2 billion) on corporate entertainment in the year ending January 1990, the tax agency reported. In recent years, the corporate entertainment bill has been larger than the nation's total defence spending. (Reuters)



SECTION 15 WATER ACT 1989

PROPOSAL BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WATER SERVICES FOR THE MODIFICATION OF CONDITION C OF THE INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF EACH OF THE WATER AND WATER AND SEWERAGE UNDERTAKERS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Statement of the reasons for and effects of the Proposed Modification

1. Condition C in the Instrument of Appointment of each water and water and sewerage undertaker limits the Infrastructure Charges which it may levy. These charges relate to additional capital expenditure, incurred by the undertakers, in extending their water supply, sewerage and sewage treatment systems, to provide capacity for new customers. Each undertaker has its own charges limit(s).

2. These charges began to be levied on 1 April 1990, but condition C makes no specific provision for imposing different charges for commercial developments (such as office blocks and hotels). It appears to the Director General that condition C could usefully be revised, to enable Infrastructure Charges in such cases to reflect the potential additional load which those developments might place upon the undertaker's network.

3. The Director General proposes that the revised condition should fix standard charges, for both water and sewerage, which would apply to most properties, including most houses and flats.

4. The Director General also proposes that the revised condition should enable Infrastructure Charges to reflect the possibility that some new developments will place a greater than average burden upon the undertaker's network, even if the water supply and sewerage services are provided only for domestic purposes. These include larger office blocks, hotels and other commercial developments. To reflect this higher load, he proposes that Infrastructure Charges should be based upon a multiple of the standard charge. The multiplier would be based upon the estimated load placed on the system by a particular development, compared with the average domestic property.

5. It is proposed that these multipliers should also be used for the calculation of Infrastructure Charges for houses and flats supplied by a common service pipe and where the undertaker has agreed with a landlord (or other person in a similar position) that the latter will pay all water and sewerage charges. This could, for example, apply to communal or grouped housing. In these cases, if payment were not made within an appropriate period, the companies would be able to recover charges at the standard rate.

6. Although the proposed scheme relies, in part, upon calculations of estimated load for water services, the Director General proposes that the same multipliers be used for sewerage Infrastructure Charges.

7. As part of the proposed revision, the Director General intends to re-fix, for each undertaker, the maximum Infrastructure Charge for the standard case (that is, the one from which the multipliers will be calculated). This will be done in such a way as to ensure that the overall financial impact, is the same as that intended by the Secretaries of State, when they fixed the present Infrastructure Charges. The revised charges would apply from 1 April 1991 and would be adjusted annually in line with the Retail Prices Index. The charges would be subject to a periodic review (like one under line with the undertakers' appointments) in either 1995 or 2000. It is also proposed that they condition B of the undertakers' appointments) in either 1995 or 2000. It is also proposed that they may be subject to interim review, but only to maintain revenue neutrality, by taking account of more reliable information about the proportion of connections to which the multiplier is applied, or about the average loading factors on which the multiplier has been based.

8. The Director General proposes that he should arbitrate any disagreements, between undertakers and developers/building owners, about the calculation of the appropriate multiplier, or the number or type of fittings upon which calculation is based.

9. The Director General also proposes that the revised condition will contain provisions, similar to those in the current condition, firstly about agreements between undertakers and developers and secondly about the treatment of re-development.

10. Any representation about, or objections to these proposals should be in writing, addressed to the Director General of Water Services, Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham, B5 4UA, to be received by him not later than 5.00 pm Friday 25 January 1991.

OSLO NOTEBOOK by Tony Samstag

Norwegians' charity to foreigners ends at home

Islam Ashan, aged 48, is a graphic artist who came to Norway 20 years ago from his native Pakistan, settling in a suburb of the capital. Recently he had what must have seemed a good idea: a Christmas party for those residents of Oslo, particularly the elderly, who would otherwise be alone. Mr Ashan and his friends, mainly Muslims, reasoned that their willingness to work during the Christmas holiday was, as he put it, "an exploitable resource".

According to what statistics you read, up to half the population of Oslo may be living alone, in a society crippled by religious fundamentalism where the sanctity of family life is cited as justification for a depressing shortage of social amenities.

The local council was happy to put up about £3,000 for the party. But weeks passed and not one Norwegian had accepted the invitation. So Mr Ashan went on a national religious radio programme to repeat his offer. This time the lonely responded in force, from all over the country: not, however, with even one grateful acceptance, but with scores of abusive telephone calls. A consensus emerged that the bloody foreigners, not content with taking their jobs, social benefits, women and so on, were now trying to steal Christmas from the Norwegians as well. This seasonal tale from the folk who claim to have invented Father

Christmas illustrates the Dag Hammarskjöld Syndrome; the tendency of small, provincial countries to wax idealistic over exotic, impoverished peoples, while abhorring the stranger in their midst.

Norway is justly proud that it gives 1.11 per cent of its gross national product to development aid, one of the highest percentages in the world. At the same time, few foreigners actually living in Norway, perhaps 4 per cent of the population, will be surprised by the natives' response to Mr Ashan's generous impulse.

An elegant variation on the Hammarskjöld Syndrome is the Brundtland Effect: a preoccupation with wide-ranging threats to the environment while allowing one's own immediate habitat to be plundered and despoiled. This phenomenon is named after Gro Harlem Brundtland, the prime minister. She is well known as chairman of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development. Her exhortations about sustainable development and the like have earned her many international awards. At home, however, she and her ministers have consistently demonstrated a talent for evading sensitive conservation issues.

This year's crop of scandals includes the continuing illegal slaughter of Scandinavia's last wolves by Norwegian farmers and the proposed siting of an Olympic skating hall at a protected wetland.

THE
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9.00 AM

THE
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FRIDAY 4TH JANUARY 1991

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KNIGHTSBRIDGE

THERE IS ONLY ONE HARRODS.
THERE IS ONLY ONE SALE.

Tide of Soviet migrants overwhelms Israeli jobs and housing



Promised land: Russian arrivals wheel in their possessions

AS 1990 draws to a close, Israel is being overwhelmed by a wave of panic-stricken Soviet Jews for whom even an imminent Middle East war is preferable to the chaos of a disintegrating Soviet Union faced with repression instead of reform.

As immigrants continued to pour in yesterday after the surge of thousands of new arrivals last weekend, the government launched an emergency housing programme to accommodate the new arrivals in tents and caravans. The Knesset approved a \$3 billion (\$1.6 billion) budget for absorbing immigrants in 1991, with the money coming from borrowing abroad and cuts in public spending.

But critics said the budget was based on outdated predictions, and that Israel faced a critical shortage of both housing and jobs as it struggled to cope with the influx. Nearly 250,000 Soviet

So many Russian Jews are fleeing to Israel that the country's resources are stretched to the limit. Richard Owen finds Moscow-trained doctors sweeping the streets

immigrants will have arrived at Tel Aviv airport from Moscow by New Year's eve, far more than the earlier official estimate for 1990 of 40,000 arrivals.

The 1991 budget assumes 300,000 immigrants will arrive next year. But with Soviet Jews still arriving at a rate of more than 1,000 a day, some officials believe 600,000 will arrive in the new year, with more than a million settling in Israel by 1992, swelling the Jewish population of Israel to nearly six million.

Israel's social and demographic structure already shows signs of change: the newly launched television news broadcasts in English

are being cut back to make way for Russian-language transmissions.

Tel Aviv airport has come to resemble a transit camp, with exhausted and bewildered Russians, many poorly dressed, sitting on piles of shabby belongings. For many of the new arrivals, the dominant feeling was relief at having escaped a Soviet Union marked by rising anti-Semitism, bitter ethnic rivalries and mounting hardship. "We had to get out in case the gates closed shut," one immigrant said. Natan Shamsky, the former dissident, said: "Nobody knows how much time is left."

Half of the *olim* (immigrants)

have higher education. Yet many of the doctors, scientists and engineers among them are having to do menial work to survive, because of the lack of jobs in a country which boasts a high proportion of qualified people.

"Working with your hands is nothing to be ashamed of," said Natan Michnik, a doctor aged 33, who had just arrived from Zhitomir in the Ukraine and had found work in a bakery at Beersheva, the "development town" in the Negev desert.

His neighbour, another Soviet doctor, was sweeping the streets to support his family — not, he admitted, what he had envisaged when queuing for weeks in Moscow to obtain exit papers. Those Soviet doctors who do find temporary employment in hospitals often receive no payment apart from canteen meals. Younger Russian women have reportedly swelled the ranks of "escorts"

working in Israeli resorts. Some immigrants, used to a system which provides security from the cradle to the grave, have fallen into apathy in the hope that somebody will "do something". Israeli television shows hundreds of imported caravans being unloaded at Israeli ports for emergency accommodation. In the meantime, new arrivals are sent to hotels, where the limited funds they are given by the state on arrival soon dwindle.

At one Jerusalem hotel, Vladimir Gurfinkel, a Moscow-trained building engineer, lived with his wife, a music teacher, and his parents. After barely 48 hours in Israel, Mr Gurfinkel was optimistic he could find some kind of work. "Anything is better than Moscow," he said. "You see the fear and hostility in the Russians' eyes. People are behaving like animals and we Jews are the scapegoats, as usual."

But his mother, who had already been in Israel for a month, wondered how she and her chronically ill husband were to live on a combined Israeli pension of £200 a month when their hotel bills, without food, were running at £300 a month.

Yesterday Ariel Sharon, the housing minister, announced that of the 45,000 flats to be built for immigrants in the coming year, 1,200 would go up in the occupied West Bank. But few Russian Jews seem attracted by the prospect of living in a settlement surrounded by hostile, stone-throwing Palestinians.

The government is acutely aware that a long-promised \$400 million housing loan from the United States is being held up by the Bush administration in case the money is used "beyond the green line". The result is a build-up of tension over the housing shortage as tent cities spring up.

Arabs bitter at release of three Jewish extremists

FROM RICHARD OWEN, IN HEBRON, OCCUPIED WEST BANK

MILITANT Jewish settlers of Hebron were delighted yesterday by the early release from prison of three leading members of the Jewish Underground, the extremist group which waged a five-year campaign of terror against West Bank Arabs in the 1980s.

But the town's Arabs were bitter and angry, as were Israeli left-wingers, who deplored Israeli leniency towards Jewish perpetrators of violence but not Arabs.

The three Jewish militants — Menachem Livni, Shaul Nir and Uzi Sharbat — had been sentenced to life for acts of terrorism but served less than seven years each. They were convicted of killing three Arabs and wounding more than thirty others during a machinegun attack on Hebron's Islamic College in 1983, which was part of a campaign by the secret 25-member Jewish Underground.

Civil rights activists demonstrating outside the prison near Tel Aviv complained that the three released men had had their sentences cut three times, with further reductions for good behaviour. This contrasts with the tough sentences routinely given to Arabs for relatively minor offences such as stone-throwing. This week Israel defied the United Nations by maintaining an order expelling four Gaza Strip Arabs for allegedly inciting violence against Jews.

Hebron, with its mixed population, was a flashpoint even before the *intifada*. Jewish settlers have established heavily guarded enclaves in the town centre and at Kiryat Arba, a fortress-like settlement on the hill above. The Jewish Underground was formed

in Hebron following the murder of six Israelis by Arabs in 1980 near the town's *souk*, or market place.

Yesterday Mr Livni said he no longer believed Jews should resort to violence. But he warned the government of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, that unless the authorities took firmer measures to crush the Arab revolt, Israeli civilians were bound to "take the law into their own hands". He said the problem was political and moral rather than military. He added: "The government must take some sort of decision which shows political courage and moral firmness against an enemy which seeks to destroy us."

President Herzog defended his decision as head of state to reduce the life sentences to 10 years and then to seven, saying the three released Jews had "shown unequivocal regret and renounced the path they took". But Mr Shamir, a former attorney general, said he could recall no precedent in which a life sentence for murder had become a seven-year sentence. "Israel is presenting Arab terror as terrible and Jewish terror as not so terrible," he said.

In Gaza, Israeli troops yesterday shot dead a Palestinian, aged 25, who had tried to stab Israeli soldiers in Shati refugee camp. Arab doctors said the dead man had more than twenty bullets in his body. The shooting sparked off riots in the Gaza Strip. In Rafah refugee camp, troops seriously wounded a masked Arab youth who was writing graffiti on the camp walls to mark the 26th anniversary of Fatah, the mainstream group within the Palestine Liberation Organisation.



Back on the street: Uzi Sharbat, left, and Shaul Nir, second from right, leaders of the Jewish Underground, celebrating their freedom with right-wing activists yesterday, after serving less than seven years of their life sentences for killing three Arabs in Hebron

Tel Aviv tries to dispel war fears

By RICHARD OWEN

ISRAELI leaders moved yesterday to calm the public after the alarm caused by the remark of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, on Christmas day that a Middle East war was "very close". Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said there was "no prospect of a rain of Iraqi missiles falling on Israel", and General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, said January 15 should not be regarded "as the date on which the war will erupt".

Mr Arens told the Knesset Iraq's missiles were "clumsy weapons which are cumbersome to operate". He added: "Only a few, if any, would reach Israel. Their ability to cause physical damage is limited — even very limited." He said Israel had given much thought to neutralising the Iraqi threat but Israel needed

steady nerves and was looking at the conflict "in its true proportions, because it could drag on for a long time".

General Shomron said both sides in the Gulf confrontation were in a period of psychological warfare. President Saddam Hussein still had room for manoeuvre and could "pull rabbits out of a hat" by making various concessions while still remaining a dominant element in the Middle East.

Asked on Israel radio if the Israeli army was bound to become involved in any conflict, General Shomron replied: "I certainly would not say that that is certain. Saddam Hussein knows the damage that he can cause us is limited, while our response would be very harsh and harmful. I imagine he takes that into consideration."

Professor Amatzia Baram, an expert on the Gulf at Haifa University, said Iraq's missiles were capable of hitting Israeli cities. But the Iraqi rockets had primitive guidance systems, he said, and even if a few missiles did get through Israeli air defences, not all of them would reach their targets. He said that as far as Israel knew, President Saddam did not have the capability to arm his missiles with binary chemical weapons such as nerve gas.

An assessment published in the newspaper *Hadashot*, based on intelligence sources, said the accuracy of Iraqi missiles was "very low". The report also played down the threat of chemical warfare, saying that to affect half the population in one square kilometre, Iraq would need four tonnes of mustard gas or two tonnes of nerve gas. Nearly all Israeli citizens have in any case been given gas masks.

Saddam ready for diplomatic drive

FROM JOHN HOLLAND IN BAGHDAD

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq is meeting his key ambassadors this week to prepare a new diplomatic offensive in the new year, according to diplomatic sources.

In the past few days, a steady stream of Iraqi-owned Lear jets have landed at Saddam Hussein international airport bringing back for consultations the 25 or so Iraqi envoys posted to the primary countries allied against Baghdad in the Arabian peninsula.

They include the envoys to Washington, Moscow, London and the United Nations.

Some diplomats said President Saddam plans to instruct his envoys to sound out a new foreign government in the coming weeks over the "nightmare scenario" for the allies — a withdrawal from most of Kuwait by Iraqi forces before the UN January 15 deadline, but continued occupation with intent to annex or lease the strategic important islands of Bubiyan and Warbah as well as the disputed south Rumaila oilfields in southern Kuwait. Until now, the anti-Iraq alliance has insisted on unconditional withdrawal from Kuwaiti soil of Iraq's estimated 450,000-strong force.

But the timing for international acceptance, if not condoning, of such an offer is better now, Western diplomatic sources here admit. International public support for a bloody, all-out attack on Iraq to liberate Kuwait has greatly diminished, and President Saddam Hussein may be preparing to take such a step, which would make him appear reasonable abroad and a hero in the Arab world as the leader who stared down Western military might and won property and influence into the bargain.

"It wouldn't be liberating Kuwait any more," said one coalition diplomat of a military response to the nightmare scenario. "It would be liberating a couple of hundred square miles of oilfields and several islands with marginal strategic value outside Iraq." He added that Western public opinion favouring an attack "would absolutely plummet".

Meanwhile, Western and Asian embassies are making final contingency plans to evacuate and shut their missions here in the event that hostilities break out on or around the January 15 deadline.

Western diplomatic missions are already operating on skeleton staffs. Most Western ambassadors have been called home for extensive consultations long since — or, in the case of the Australian ambassador, an extended holiday — and support staff are also being given leave which could be extended indefinitely.

One British embassy source said that remaining staff are in "limbo" about the date of a possible evacuation. One high-ranking Western diplomat said he would not leave until all his remaining staff, which is down to five, were evacuated.

Other heads of mission, having long since burnt the last classified and consular documents, are talking of merely turning the lights off and bolting the doors when the call comes from the Foreign Office.

In addition, Iraqi Airlines, which is the sole remaining carrier for flights to and from Baghdad, is being besieged with embassy inquiries about whether it plans to fly on or after January 15.

Baghdad deal near on Soviet evacuation

Moscow — The Soviet foreign ministry said yesterday that the evacuation of Soviet citizens from Iraq should be completed in two weeks' time, but the continuing delicacy of this task was underlined by the sending of a more senior team to negotiate with Baghdad (Bruce Clark writes).

The departure for Baghdad of Igor Belousov, a deputy prime minister and head of President Gorbachev's inter-ministerial task force on the Gulf, will inevitably prompt speculation that broader aspects of the conflict are on his agenda. Mr Belousov was expected to meet Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, and Taha Yassin Ramadan, the first deputy prime minister, Tass reported.

The arrival in Moscow early yesterday of a special flight carrying 400 expatriates left about 1,700 Soviet citizens, or roughly half the original number, still in Iraq, according to ministry spokesman Vitali Churkin.

The spokesman, an aide to the outgoing foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, said evacuation of remaining Soviet residents should be over by January 10.

Mr Churkin, who insisted last week that all Soviet experts ought to leave Iraq in their country's interests, made no mention of the subsequent assertion by Yevgeni Primakov, Moscow's special envoy to the Gulf, that 1,000 expatriates had chosen to remain in Iraq to complete their contracts.

Fez rioters jailed

Fez — A Moroccan court sentenced 40 people to prison terms from one to seven years after a strike which turned to rioting nearly two weeks ago in which property was extensively damaged and at least five people killed. The sentences were the most severe handed down so far in dozens of trials after the disorder in several Moroccan cities. (AP)

Troop ship delay

Madrid — The departure of a Spanish passenger ship which was chartered to transport French troops to the Gulf was delayed in Cadix because its crew refused to make the trip. The ship, the *J. J. Sister*, had been scheduled to sail with a volunteer crew to Toulon to pick up the soldiers after the regular crew went on strike rather than sail to the Gulf.

Death for spying

Tunis — A Tunisian diplomat was sentenced to death for spying, official sources said. A relative said that Lamini Dali, aged 58, was found guilty of espionage for the United States. Dali, deputy director for African affairs in the foreign ministry, was arrested on October 16, allegedly while about to hand secret documents to agents of a foreign power. (Reuter)

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Renewal of Saudi ties with Iran foreseen

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A RESUMPTION of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia was being predicted yesterday after the leaders of six Gulf states welcomed what they said was Tehran's wish to improve ties with its Arab neighbours.

In their first summit since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August, the six allies in the Gulf Co-operation Council demanded Iraq's unconditional withdrawal and said they would hold their next annual summit in Kuwait.

The friendly message to Iran marked a new stage in the realignment of loyalties in the Middle East. During the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, the Gulf states backed Iraq. The Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti governments spent more than \$30 billion financing the Iraqi military.

In 1988 the tension between the

Saudi and Iranian governments was intensified by trouble during the Mecca pilgrimage and the two broke off relations.

The Gulf Co-operation Council consists of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait.

The uncompromising call for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait indicated that member states, such as Oman, which had argued for international sanctions to be given more time to work, were overruled by the militant states.

The finance ministers of the council are to meet in the next few days to discuss establishing a fund to support countries which have rallied to Kuwait's aid. The rulers were angered that Jordan, Yemen, Sudan and the P.L.O. which have received billions of dollars in aid, have shown sympathy for Iraq.

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Feeble Deng goes through motions of people's democracy

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN BEIJING

DENG XIAOPING, China's senior leader, looked feeble when he appeared in public for the first time in more than five months yesterday to cast his vote in local elections.

His appearance served the dual purpose of quashing rumours that he was in hospital and of emphasising the importance of the elections. China's leaders insist that the elections are what put the democracy into the people's democratic dictatorship.

Li Peng, the prime minister, was also shown casting his vote, smiling broadly as though he knew that the so-called democratic process was a joke. Mr Li was widely expected to fall from power after he became known as the man with blood on his hands from last year's mass killings. Eighteen months later, he looks confident and secure.

Throughout the city voters streamed, rather unwillingly, to cast their ballots. In the meeting hall in Xinghuaxili neighbourhood, people gathered to do their socialist duty. Despite official claims that local deputies are elected by secret ballot, there were no booths here, just a desk around which everyone huddled, read over each other's shoulders and discussed loudly which names to tick. It was not a difficult task. There were four candidates for three seats, a typical ratio.

In theory, there is nearly a 100 per cent turnout for these elections. In practice, many people send their friends to vote for them. "There is no point whatsoever in this," said

one man in private, "hardly anyone knows who the candidates are, and whoever you vote for it makes no difference anyway, they're all the same."

Local elections, held every three years in every suburb and workplace, are the country's only direct elections. Any person proposed by 10 people can supposedly stand, but such candidates are assessed on the basis of political reliability by an election committee. One of the most important criteria is a candidate's attitude during the unrest last year. Such information can easily be gained.

There are also quotas to be fulfilled by women, Communist Party members, and the so-called democratic parties. Only a tiny fraction of the 3,300 voters in Xinghuaxili had met the candidates.

Having more candidates than seats is a relatively new concept, and the voters cannot get used to it. One old woman said: "I would like to elect all the candidates; it is a pity we can only elect three."

Even the candidates had not really caught on. "When I listen to the other three speaking I think they are all so much better than me, so I think it is right for them to be elected, not me," said Song Li, a school deputy head, aged 48, after the meeting.

Yao Chunlan, aged 60 and illiterate, has served for years on the busybody street committee, bossing women about contraception and keeping a close watch on potential trouble-makers. She has stood three times before and failed

to be elected each time. Liu Anshan, production manager in a collective factory, is a shy 38-year-old.

The fourth candidate, Zhang Zhu, aged 57, seems to be a certainty. A local official who has served before as a people's deputy, he wears a Mao suit and speaks with the voice of authority.

Had they knocked on people's doors, to canvass for votes? Mrs Yao all but holds up her hands in horror. "We avoid the voters during election time; it is embarrassing for voters to talk about the elections in our presence."

Mrs Song cuts in: "These things are unnecessary. Have the most important thing to support democracy, elections in China are democratic, completely different from those in the West."

Both Mr Zhang and Mrs Yao are Communist Party members. Mr Liu is not a member of any party, more from apathy than from principle. Mrs Song is the member of one of China's so-called democratic parties. Not that you would know it. "It is very free in China politically," she says, "people can join whichever party they like. That is why I joined a democratic party. The Communist Party is our ruling party, and we co-operate under the leadership of the Communist Party. This is what is meant by a proletarian dictatorship."



Democratic exercise: an infirm Deng Xiaoping making his way to the ballot box to cast his vote in yesterday's local elections. Television showed Mr Deng, aged 86, walking shakily towards the ballot box in Zhongnanhai, the section of the Forbidden City used by the Chinese leadership for their homes and offices, but the official news agency described him as striving vigorously to cast his vote. Mr Deng had not been seen in public since July and his health had been the subject of widespread speculation, with the suggestion

being made in some circles that he was ailing in hospital. Chinese and diplomatic analysts believe that Mr Deng is still the most powerful force in politics and that his death may herald a period of disorder. During his appearance yesterday he smiled fixedly and his daughter gently guided him forward with a hand on his elbow. The television coverage skimmed over the obvious effort which he was required to make to fill in his voting slip and shuffle to the ballot box. He then turned, still beaming, and muttered: "That is that."

America looks back on year of record violence

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THIS year could go down as the most violent in the United States, exceeding even 1980 when 23,040 people were killed, one every 23 minutes. In the first six months of 1990, FBI figures showed killings in cities of more than 100,000 people as 8 per cent up on 1989. By the first week of December, annual homicide records had been broken in eight of America's twenty largest cities.

New York experienced its 2,000th killing of the year during the first weekend of December, when seven people died in one night. Last year's figure was a record 1,905.

Washington looks certain to retain its title as the murder capital of America, measured by killings as a percentage of population. Last year's record of 434 murders was broken on November 23 and the final tally will be close to 500.

Records have also been broken in Dallas, San Antonio, Phoenix, Memphis, Milwaukee and Boston, and by the end of the month Philadelphia, San Diego and Los Angeles may have joined them. Substantially more killings than last year have occurred in Houston and Chicago, though their respective records, set in 1981 and 1974, are not likely to be breached. Miami, Detroit and Atlanta are among isolated cases of cities where homicide rates have fallen.

Guns and drugs are frequently cited as the most

common causes of homicides, but drug-related killings have begun to decrease in several cities. However, drug trafficking has given inner-city youths the resources to buy firearms. Nearly 80 per cent of killings in Washington this year have involved guns, and those charged include about sixty juveniles.

Most killings also involve black youths. Of the 433 killings recorded in Washington by December 11, 374 of the victims were black men. One in 1,000 young black men is now killed each year, ten times the rate for whites. "In some areas of the country it is now more likely for a black male between his 15th and 24th birthdays to die from homicide than it was for a US soldier to be killed on a tour of duty in Vietnam," said Robert Froehle, principal author of a recent report from the Federal Centre for Disease Control.

Experts regularly point out that, whereas disputes used to be settled by verbal argument or fists, they are now usually settled with bullets.

NEW YORK: Ten people were killed in this city on Christmas eve and Christmas day. The victims included a mother who died after she was allegedly punched in the face by her son, a man who was shot as he carried holiday packages to his home, another man who was shot at a party and a toddler whose mother was charged with homicide, police said. (AP)

Chinese papers pay new homage to Mao

Peking - China's newspapers were full of articles praising Chairman Mao yesterday on his 97th birthday. Last year there was little fuss about the birthday of the late Great Helmsman, but this year lengthy articles raged against bourgeois liberalisation and condemned those who criticised Mao (Catherine Sampson writes).

In recent years leaders have admitted publicly that Mao made many mistakes and Mao worship has become unfashionable. Officially he is

assessed as 70 per cent right, 30 per cent wrong. Now old-style Maoists appear to be letting the 30 per cent slip their minds.

Chinese television yesterday showed interminable official meetings held to debate Mao's contributions to mankind. Hundreds of people were shown queuing outside his mausoleum. Foreign visitors say Mao's body now looks more like plastic than preserved flesh, but few Chinese would admit to such sacrilegious suspicions.

Spurned former senator takes literary revenge

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

NO AMOUNT of mistletoe can reconcile Washington's deepest political differences in the so-called season of goodwill - especially when the aggrieved, following a trail towards immortality, turn to the publishing industry to settle old scores.

The latest "kiss and tell" book born of a grudge between the mighty and the fallen in American politics belongs to John Tower, the former Texas senator rejected last year by Congress as President Bush's nomi-

nee for Secretary of Defence after allegations of womanising and heavy drinking.

Mr Tower's memoirs missed being this year's highbrow stocking-stuffer since they are not due for publication until February, but extracts from the glibly profane feathery since *The Washington Post* laid hands on a copy this month.

With a year's hindsight, Mr Tower has uncharitable words for some of his former colleagues who refused to confirm him in a post he coveted. One Democrat has "a reputation as one of the most excessive regular boozers"

in the upper house. Another Democrat is "a study in arrogance and pomposity". Robert Byrd, a Democrat from West Virginia, has "a tendency to resort to flattery, indignation, which alternately amuses and annoys" his peers on Capitol Hill. Mr Tower also aims a low blow at John Glenn, the Ohio Democrat and former astronaut: "Not the brightest guy in Washington."

The Democratic-controlled Senate voted 53 to 47 against Mr Tower in the first significant setback for Mr Bush's presidency. The defeat followed acrimonious hearings led by Sam Nunn, the chairman of the Senate armed services committee, and marked the first ever denial of one of an American president's original cabinet choices.

So persistent were the rumours about Mr Tower's private life that the FBI enquired into his two ended marriages even before the nomination process began. Senator Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, was "blinded by his own ambition" to become president, Mr Tower says in his book, *Consequences*.

He says he believes Senator Nunn was prejudiced against his nomination because he criticised the defence policies of Michael Dukakis, Mr Bush's opponent in the 1988 presidential election. Mr Nunn advised Mr Dukakis on defence matters.

A rare barb thrown at a fellow Republican calls John Warner, of Virginia, a "wholly-owned subsidiary of Sam Nunn" who suffers from "a debilitating political weakness: he wants to be liked by everyone".

Mr Tower has avoided commenting on the leaks from his book.



Tower: sending back the stings and arrows

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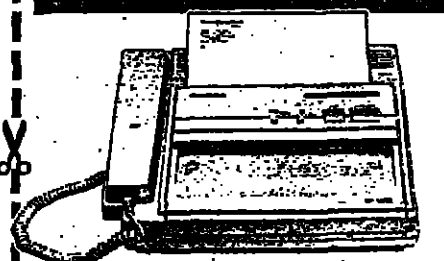


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Conor Cruise O'Brien

Gulf: why it must be war

Christmas, combined with the impending Security Council deadline, seems likely to prompt further peace initiatives in the Gulf. But such initiatives from the West, in present circumstances, will make war more probable. Saddam Hussein is a warlord, according to whose value-system peace initiatives are intrinsically contemptible. In invading and holding on to Kuwait, he is buoyed by his conviction that western countries (especially America) are not prepared to accept the kind of casualties that war with Iraq would entail.

Saddam is most satisfied with the results of his virtuoso public relations exploitation of the hostages, culminating in the Christmas releases. As he had foreseen, the hostages — first their predicament, then their release — dominated television coverage of the Gulf, pushing the occupation of Kuwait into the background.

At government level, the alliance against Iraq holds. But popular support for the alliance declines, and opposition to war with Iraq is growing. People are confused, as it was intended they should be. Since Saddam was responsible for releasing the hostages, how can he be the monster people made him out to be? And if he is not a monster, why go to war with him?

In America, the growing signs of opposition to war with Iraq are reflected in the polls. In the media and above all in Congress. All the movement of public opinion confirms, in Saddam's mind, the diagnosis he inferred in conversation with the US ambassador, April Glaspie, on the eve of the invasion of Kuwait: America disposes of huge armaments but lacks the stomach for a fight.

The British scene, too, has become more encouraging for Saddam since Mrs Thatcher's fall. Mr Major is committed to her unyielding policy, but it is not in his nature to radiate the same fervour for its pursuit. For Saddam, loss of fervour is loss of credibility. And in present conditions, the change in tone and in temperature of discussion betokens a change in the emphasis of policy.

Nothing that change of temperature. I thought of Edmund Burke's comment in *Letters on a Regicide Peace* on the efforts of Pitt and his colleagues to get out of the conflict with revolutionary France: "Cold as ice, themselves, they never could kindle in our breasts a spark of that zeal which is necessary to a conflict with an adverse zeal..." Mr Major made little impact in Washington last week. The British politician who did make an impact was Ted Heath: he talked peace, and Congress loved it.

Burke also said, in the same letter from which I have quoted: "A peace too eagerly sought is not

always the sooner obtained." Mr Heath and others should meditate on that. In the present situation too eager a search for peace conveys to Saddam that he can safely remain in Kuwait, past the Security Council deadline, then into the desert summer, and then indefinitely.

Developments in the Soviet Union last week will also have brought much comfort to Saddam Hussein. He is bound to see Edward Shevardnadze's resignation speech and especially the fierce anti-western speech on Friday by the KGB chief, Vladimir Kryuchkov, as the beginning of the end of the grand alliance against him. He will have noted that excessive zeal for the alliance was among the charges brought against Shevardnadze by his military enemies. If the Soviet Union does indeed regress to Stalinism, which is what Shevardnadze fears and Kryuchkov hopes, then the present unanimity in the Security Council is over, a new form of cold war is on, and a new Soviet leadership, whether presided over by Gorbachev or not, will be warning the West against "military adventures" in the Gulf.

What with western eagerness for the peace increasing and anti-western feeling rising in key sectors of the Soviet system, Saddam is likely to feel this week — perhaps more than at any time since the military build-up in the Gulf began — that he can get away with holding on to Kuwait. Yet if he does hold on, war is likely to follow, soon after the deadline is past. President Bush simply cannot withdraw that huge force, leaving Saddam securely in possession of Kuwait and dominant in the Arab Middle East. And the American leaders, civil and military, will not want to see their forces still sweating it out in the Gulf with the danger of the Soviet Union returning to Stalinism and the cold war. The arguments in favour of getting the Gulf war over and done with before that new cold war sets in will be hard to resist.

The divergent impact of the Shevardnadze and Kryuchkov speeches — encouraging headline tendencies in both Baghdad and Washington — is the main factor now making for a Gulf war. And even in the unlikely event of a withdrawal of western forces, leaving Saddam holding Kuwait, war in the Middle East is now inevitable. Iraq, it is reliably reported, will soon have the capacity for nuclear war, perhaps by the end of the coming year. Saddam is already threatening to use chemical weapons against Israel, which is unlikely to wait until he has nuclear weapons as well. So it is no longer a question of whether there will be war, but whether Iraq's adversary will be the present alliance, or Israel alone. It is more likely to be the alliance, with Israel either an unwelcome ally or an ally because attacked by Iraq.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

Someone had scratched "Merry Christmas England" into the firm terra-cotta sand at the beach at Luz. I watched as the incoming tide washed away the message: Merry went first, then one wave obliterated both Christmas and England and I felt a hollow pang of patriotism such as causes people to go to British embassies and sign their names in the visitors' book.

It is our fourth Christmas on the Algarve. Around us they are celebrating with salt cod and broccoli — our oldest allies' traditional food for the feast. Not us. The old cash and carry that restricted custom to hotel keepers, limited companies and liars is now a proper supermarket and I found a shelf marked Peru, boasting upwards of a dozen sub-10lb turkeys.

Why Peru? asked my granddaughter, who had come with me to buy baked beans. In Portugal, turkey is *peru*, said I, sounding like a United Nations guide who has been at the drinks cupboard.

It is silly, said Martha with the conviction that goes with being seven years old, to call a bird by the name of a country. We have a Christmas tree in our sitting room: its lights give a whole new significance to the word "flash". There are 40 bulbs: 15 of them zip on then cut out, and a second later the other 24 streak on and off and on, adjoined briefly by the first lot, then nothing, then both, then one, then neither.

Was there not anything quieter? I asked my wife when she brought them back from the electrical shop. It transpires that Portuguese decorative lights flicker: there is no demand for ones that just glow — nasty foreign conservative things.

For most of the year the ex-pat Britons rule okay on the Algarve: come the important times and Brits go to ground or to restaurants that stage special, ruinous, "with all the trimmings" events and the indigenous folk walk tall. We were quite lucky to get our tree. At the kiosk near the municipal market where I had bought one last Christmas the woman

owner said she was not doing them any more — there was no demand. At the obliging shop by the Funchal Ridge the proprietor told me where I might find one, and true to his word, in Lagos, behind his bus station, an elderly man stood attendance beside an assortment of recently chopped pines.

We said *Bom dia, quenta costa* that one? He said 1,000 (£4). We nodded agreement and bought it. I tried to fit the tree in the boot of my car, it protruded. The old boy got some string, secured the boot handle to the rear bumper and I thanked him, shook his hand. He said *Mas*, and I said no. I was not going to pay him extra for tying down the lid of my car boot. I shook my head decisively, got behind the wheel, started the engine. He rapped on the window. I said goodbye, drove off, mentioned to my wife that this was unusual behaviour for a Portuguese and that 1,000 was a fair price for that tree. She asked if I had paid him. I asked if she had. Ah.

"For someone who has not been paid for a car and secured with string, he was surprisingly restrained," said my wife. We circled the block, found him standing by his trees counting the money in his wallet and I gave him 1,000 escudos. He said Happy Christmas.

I made a cake for Boxing Day: bought sultanas and raisins and pitted prunes on Friday, left them to soak in local brandy overnight and on Saturday the fruit was just moist and I poured on some more brandy: when this, too, had been assimilated I added another plug on Sunday. Gives a whole new meaning to the term "dried fruit". I baked the cake on Sunday afternoon, iced it on Monday and we had a slice each as we unwrapped presents by the flashing tree on Christmas Day.

I had forgotten about Martha. The 4lb cake contained half a bottle of Borges Five Star. She took a bite and said yuk. I asked her what she meant. It transpired she did not like the icing — all that marzipan and hard white sugar stuff on top.

Dangers of the Lambeth vacuum



Runcie leaves in January

George Hill asks if the Church can still afford the leisurely changeover from one Archbishop to his successor



Carey takes over in March

Transfer of supreme political power in Downing Street means that golf-clubs and toothbrushes are hastily bundled out a matter of hours before the triumphant arrival of the new occupant. As for the seals of office, they pass from common hand to royal hand, and back to common, as if red-hot, so that the span in which the sovereign is technically without a chief minister can be measured in minutes.

In the case of the Crown itself, the transition is theoretically instantaneous. "The king is dead, long live the king." With executive power, the importance of speed is practical; with the Crown it is symbolic, reaffirming continuity.

At Lambeth Palace, things move more slowly. There is no prospect of the retiring Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, having to make a hasty exit through the back of the palace clutching a chasuble and a Gladstone bag while his successor, Dr George Carey, pounds the front door with his crozier.

On the contrary, the changeover will be almost perversely slow. Dr Runcie formally retires at the end of January, but Dr Carey will be no more than an archbishop-elect until March 27, when the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury will meet to elect him as Archbishop. (Barring the greatest ecclesiastical voters' revolt since the Reformation, he has a safe seat: upsets,

recounts and alternative votes can scarcely arise, as there is no alternative candidate.)

Even that ceremony will confer on him only the "spiritualities" of his office: he will have to wait until a few days before his enthronement on April 19 for the private meeting with the Queen during which she will make him free of the "temporalities", which once meant vast tracts of land but now mean little more than rights of appointment to certain benefices.

So for almost two months there will be no Primate of All England — the established church spiritually rudderless. The long interval is a matter of custom, not a statutory relic of obsolete necessity, such as the two-month delay in America between a presidential election and the inauguration, which was ordained to give the new man time to complete his dispositions in the age of the pony express.

It is usual to leave a decent space between the departure of one archbishop and the arrival of the next, comments a Lambeth source. "It is felt to be a bit awkward to be serving one archbishop while the other is still around. There is no fixed precedent about how long the interval should be, but this time there is some building work to do at Lambeth Palace, and it will be convenient to allow time for it to be finished in the period between."

There is something thoroughly Anglican about scheduling the elevation of a new primate on the basis that he should not get under the feet of the builders. It is as if a conclave in the Vatican, gathered to elect a new pope, decided to hold back with the white smoke until the Sistine chapel had been fully restored.

During the interregnum (or interarchbishopate), the Archbishop of York is designated to

carry out any urgent primate functions that may arise. Lambeth seems a little hazy about just what these might consist of, since coronations and consecrations of bishops do not normally crop up on an emergency basis.

If a national crisis with overtones of moral disarray breaks in February — and the pace of events in the Gulf makes it all too easy to envisage how one might — Dr Carey would have to rally the nation from some pulpit, not from the bishops' bench in the House of Lords. As Bishop of Bath and Wells, with no great length of service behind him, he will remain too junior to qualify for a seat in the Lords until the election on March 27 formally "translates" him to Canterbury.

The assembly of the World Council of Churches is to meet in Canberra in February. Dr Carey will be there, but as an observer rather than as leader of Britain's

interdenominational delegation. The council is too recent an innovation for leadership of the delegation to have become an integral function of the Primate of All England.

Eventually the church will have a fully-functioning archbishop again. It will have been a long haul: from the day Dr Runcie announced that he would resign, and made himself a lame duck incumbent, to that of the election of his successor by the dean and chapter, a year and a day will have passed.

In the calendar of eternity, of course, a year and a day may be little enough, and the six weeks in which the church will be without a leader may count as the twinkling of an eye. Unlike a pope, an archbishop is not a sovereign; nor is he a prime minister. But of all institutions, a church should be aware of taking symbolism lightly.

It would not be difficult to arrange a swifter formal handover of power on a basis that did not hamper due preliminary deliberation over the choice of a candidate, nor interfered with the war on dry rot at Lambeth Palace. And a schedule that showed a little more urgency about putting bottoms onto archbishops' thrones might set a higher symbolic value on the primate's role, so reducing the danger of people inferring that the country can get along quite well without an Archbishop of Canterbury.

Roger Boyes in Warsaw contrasts the disappearance of shop queues this Christmas with the long wait for treatment as hospitals become increasingly overstretched

Walk in and buy, at a price

Queues, the symbols of suppressed inflation and economic mismanagement, have become virtually extinct in Poland. An aerial photograph of Warsaw 18 months ago would have revealed masses of tiny worms wriggling around the streets: lines outside meat shops, waiting for baskets at the supermarket, for visas to the West, for laundry paper, for sugar, for vodka and for mineral water.

Now, a year into market reforms, the shortages and the bottlenecks have given way to well-lit shops displaying an abundance of goods, albeit highly priced. There was a sign of the times just before Christmas when the famous pre-war department store, Jankowski, reopened for business. But some queues have persisted.

Hundreds of Poles queued in temperatures around -8C outside Wedel, Warsaw's premier chocolate shop, to stock up on Poland's traditional Christmas and New Year treat. A shorter queue of pensioners and women with babies has priority and moves more swiftly into the shop. At the entrance, the confidence of the two lines, there is a flash of temper when an ordinary queue challenges a fast-lane mother. "That's not your kid," she snaps. "You have just borrowed him to get in first." But the incident is soon smoothed over. This year there is room and chocolate for everyone, and sweets no longer have to be fought over. They are an affordable luxury.

Ten minutes' drive away there is another enduring queue, a grim one. The reception desk at the cancer clinic registers the patients who file into a large room like the waiting hall of a provincial railway station. The receptionists work fast, but the patients keep on coming. They sit on hard plastic, ostentatiously not touching. A man complains about the price of houses — the equivalent of £40,000 for a three-room flat in the centre

of Warsaw, maybe £60,000 next year. His wife, or sister, talks about the price of petrol and how they may have to give up their car.

On the face of it, a chocolate shop and a cancer clinic have little in common. One purveys luxuries, the other deals in life and death. But the transition from central planning to market involves just such a jumble of priorities. Together the shop and the hospital provide a snapshot of change.

The Wedel shop is due for privatisation, and the staff are nervous. The wood-panelled, mirrored and chandeliered shop is abuzz with rumour, talk of bids and counterbids. Privatisation should make some of the assistants better off; others will be made redundant. Who will go? Who will stay?

Andrzej Karbowiczek, general manager for the past 25 years, was a close friend of the director of Agros, the state-owned import-export agency. Agros used to monopolise cocoa supplies, and as a result Wedel has been paying considerably more than the free-market price for its cocoa, the cost being passed on to the queuing customers. Agros became richer, and Mr Karbowiczek was appointed to its board. "The situation was absurd, but not really corrupt," insists the deputy privatisation minister, Krzysztof Lis.

Nestlé, the giant chocolate company, expressed an interest in the Wedel privatisation. Then Agros jumped in: it would buy up Wedel, guarantee the 3,000 chocolate factory jobs and raise salaries at a stroke. To the credit of the workers, they refused to believe Agros, whose offer would have anchored the company into a quasi-socialist arrangement. They have chosen Nestlé. Yet the workers remain anxious, and not without reason. Unemployment

Bernard Levin's column will appear on Tuesday.



One queue the free market has failed to disperse: for chocolate

in Poland touched 1.2 million at Christmas and is likely to climb beyond two million next year.

The socialist regime in Poland may not have been committed to supplying luxuries to the population, but it was committed to eradicating the epidemics and unnecessary diseases of the pre-war years: malaria, typhoid, diphtheria. Moreover, it wanted to give everyone equal access to medical treatment, to depart from the land of practice that allows the rich to buy the best doctors. Hospitals were run with party discipline. Peasant girls were trained as

nurses. Excellent medical schools turned out thousands of doctors. But with a population bulge about to enter the age-range most prone to cancer, the system has begun to crack.

The oncology institute was built in 1932 from public donations. Poland has 3,800 beds for cancer patients. It needs at least 6,000. The incidence of cancer, now slightly above the European average, is likely to rise. A new institute has been ten years in the making. The move to the market has given hospitals one advantage: the Polish currency can be freely

converted into dollars, allowing hospitals to seek out the most cost-effective suppliers. But there is still a shortfall of cash. Only 24 per cent of male and 42 per cent of female cancer patients in Poland survive for five years, compared to 50 and 60 per cent respectively in America.

Is privatisation a solution for the health service? Dr Jan Steffen, director of the oncology institute, hopes private industrialists will eventually match some of the contributions made over the years by state-owned factories. For this institute, with its tradition of private funding, this may be a way out, but the whole health system cannot survive on charity, and the only chance is to overhaul the medical insurance scheme.

So far a dermatology clinic, privately owned by doctors, has been set up, and there is a private surgery in Warsaw. The cost of a day in the clinic is currently about £10, and private house visits by doctors cost about £5. Gynaecologists are raising the price of abortions (already about £260) in anticipation of a tighter law. So in hospitals at least, the queues will stay.

The transition from a command to a market economy sounds altogether smoother, and more logical in the writings of economists than it is in practice. First remove the decayed tooth of the communist economy, then install the efficient state-of-the-art incisor of the free market and proceed to chew. But removing the shards of the old is hard, and the new fits only uncomfortably. And the whole operation is being performed without anaesthetic. Luxuries will still be scarce and medical care hard to afford for the foreseeable future in Poland. Prosperity will still have to wait.

Tomorrow
Charles Bremner reports on Christmas in New York

Classlessness brought to book

In keeping with John Major's vision of the classless society, *Debrett* is purging itself of superfluous gentry and including 40,000 noteworthy commoners in its *People of Today 1991*. A panel of experts from various fields has just delivered its recommendations, and the names of those who have achieved excellence will be added to the list. The volume is published in March. However, tradition is not being ignored completely, and editor Patsy Ellis confirms that the holders of peerages and baronetcies will continue to be listed, but not their sons and daughters. "We are now selecting people on the basis of merit."

Another change is that unlike *Who's Who*, which keeps people in for life once they have achieved entry, *Debrett* will ruthlessly purge those who subsequently fade from the limelight.

The new, classless entrants will include chief Nico Ladenis, writer Claire Rayner and footballer Paul Gascoigne. Speaking on who gets in from the world of books, consultant editor Kenneth McLeish says: "The criterion is not only intellectual excellence; it also includes literary endeavour. So, alongside the likes of Salman Rushdie and Julian Barnes, I argued for the inclusion of Raymond Briggs, Claire Rayner and Rosamunde Pilcher."

Mary Rose Beaumont, founder of the Centre for the Study of Modern Art at the ICA, chose about 500 individuals for the visual arts section. "Although I picked gallery directors and well-

known administrators, I added people like Lewis Biggs, director of the Tate in Liverpool and — by way of encouragement — included many young artists who are not members of the Royal Academy."

Hilary Rubinstein, founder of *The Good House Guide*, chose chefs on the basis of Michelin rosettes and innovative contributions to British cooking. "I like the notion of a book widening the range of people recognised," he says.

For heaven's sake

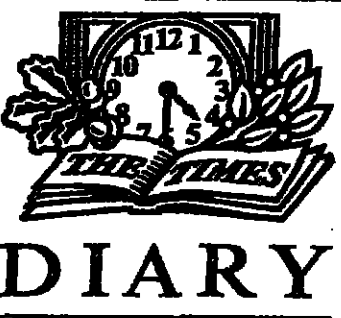
The Japanese, with typical oriental efficiency, have targeted another untapped and unexploited marketing opportunity: the dead. For those bored by a box or less than crazy about

you should have ordered a cup before the bus hit you



cremation, Japanese companies are now offering a range of designer funeral services at prices to suit every pocket.

For a mere 8 million yen (£32,000), Makuri Skyet will broadcast, via satellite, a one-hour funeral service to three different locations within Japan. This offer



DIARY

is apparently particularly attractive to corporations which deem that their employees are too busy at bench or desk to pay their respects to former colleagues.

But the ultimate after-life accessory is provided by Kyocera Corporation, manufacturers of high-tech ceramics. In addition to the usual pension and death benefits, this model employer tells staff that for a small additional premium, it will try to arrange for them to meet beyond the grave "as they have in this world to talk, inspire each other and exchange cups of sake."

Work in progress

With coffee tables beginning to groan under the weight of volumes marking Mozart's bicentenary, the Book Trust and the Society of Authors are proposing a scheme to slim down the glut. Martyn Goff of the Trust wants to revive the confidential register of commissioned titles which operated briefly in the mid-1970s. Administered by the Arts Council, this allowed publishers to make enquiries about forthcoming titles, to ensure that rivals were not working on similar projects. "It

would save a lot of money and avoid flooding the market," says Goff. "For example, there were recently three biographies of the poet Isaac Rosenberg. All lost money, whereas one would have been profitable."

But not all authors support the idea. Peter Ackroyd, who is now working on a biography of William Blake, prefers a scholarly free-for-all. "A register would make no difference at all," he says. Michael Holroyd, Bernard Shaw's biographer, also has his doubts. "Last time it was the publishers who killed the scheme. They said it would result in another Watergate. The temptation to break into the building one night and make a killing by rushing out a biography before a rival was just too great."

Soft cell

With the advertising industry as hard hit by the recession as any, a glimmer of light appears with the opportunity to exploit a captive market. Eric McGraw, the managing editor of *Time*, a new quarterly for occupants of Her Majesty's prisons, says he is considering selling space in the second issue, due in the New Year, offering advertisers access to 50,000 prisoners in the nation's jails. Although inmates receive only an average weekly wage of £2.70, the Home Office says the total annual expenditure of the prison population amounts to £18 million a year.

"There are marvellous opportunities for advertisers," says Mark Robinson, a director of the HDM advertising agency. "For a start, it would be a great way to build long-term brands." Charity advertisers might cash in on the

number of prisoners who turn to philanthropy, and with tobacco regularly replacing cash as a currency — "snags" the initiated — cigarette manufacturers are unlikely to miss the chance.

Would McGraw turn away any advertising? "We might have to draw the line at manufacturers of rope-ladders," he says.

Four d'oeuvres

Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, will start 1991 with a crusade: to abolish the first course of business lunches. Cigar-chomping Grade believes that millions of pounds are lost every year while captains of industry and others whose time is precious have to work their way through the hors d'oeuvres and the soup.

"Busy people should not have to wait for the main course," he says. "They should go straight into it and be back at their desks at the latest by 2.30."

He admits that early soundings have produced few supporters, even among his own staff, but is not deterred. "I am thinking of writing to the prime minister or to the EC in Brussels. If that doesn't work I shall find an MP to sponsor a private member's bill," he says.

● A colleague travelled north to York on the 1400 train from King's Cross shortly before Christmas and went to the restaurant car to order lunch. "Sorry, sir, you're too late. We are now serving afternoon tea," the steward told him. The following day he returned to London from Wigan on the 1610. Again he made his way to the restaurant car, this time ordering afternoon tea. "Too early, sir, we are still serving lunch," he was told.



UNSTEADY AS SHE GOES

Like Ulysses beset by tempests, Mikhail Gorbachev appears unable to control where much dignity, valour or even wisdom. Most of his early comrades have fallen and nerves are snapping among his remaining crew.

The exhaustion which appears to have wrecked the prime minister's health was manifest during this past week's Soviet Congress not only in the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze but more alarmingly in the diatribe against all things foreign by General Vladimir Kryuchkov, the head of the KGB. Yet Mr Gorbachev's new powers show that the existing captain remains unchallenged — whether because after him there is only chaos or still unclear.

Mr Gorbachev has proposed referenda on the most drastic questions to have faced the Union since the advent of communism: whether it should continue in existence and what sort of politico-economic system should prevail within it. The first question is to be addressed explicitly, the second indirectly by asking the people whether they approve of private land ownership. In principle, such referenda are both reasonable and consistent with international practice, provided the residents of each constituent republic are separately counted. The economic debate is correctly concentrated on the one issue of private ownership, the rejection of which is fundamental to communism.

Yet Mr Gorbachev appears to have misunderstood both issues. He has prejudged the question of the Soviet Union's existence in advance of any referendum. His recent speeches suggest that the new authoritarian phase of his political journey will have but one clear objective: to preserve the Soviet Union in more or less its present form. Hence the military and secret police allies ever closer round him; hence his desertion by his more outspoken reform-minded colleagues. The Kremlin doubtless feels that the rule of Soviet law can only be re-established through virtually untrammelled executive power. But democracy has rarely grown out of the barrel of a gun.

There is no mystery about the cause of the

Soviet Union's present economic and political crisis: Mr Gorbachev's failure to back the radical Shatalin Plan for swift conversion to a market economy. Having demoralised the command economy, he has not had the courage, or perhaps even the understanding, to see the urgency of replacing it promptly. If government trucks cannot move food, then private sector ones must be encouraged to do so. Yet Mr Gorbachev, facing the collapse of communism and unwilling to give the market free rein, is now turning to a third force, the army. Authoritarian rule has always offered the seductive way out of hard choices.

Mr Gorbachev cannot avoid this bind. If he goes down the authoritarian route that he appears to have chosen, he will find the markets on whose help he professes to call ever more dislocated, criminalised and ineffectual. He will find the public less ready to accept the disciplines and short-term hardship that markets bring. The pluralist social democracy and economic freedom that he once heralded will thus be a sick dream.

There is, for much of his country, perhaps one way out: emphatically to reject the Union in the referendum and opt unilaterally for economic reform. But that means Mr Gorbachev must face down his new friends among the hard-liners, some of whom have indicated they would regard the break-up of the Union as a worse outcome even than the collapse of communism.

Mr Gorbachev is still able to count on Western financial support and technical assistance. Unless and until he develops a strategy to match his appeals for patience from his people are unjustified and his demands for discipline may be impossible to enforce without bloodshed. There are now two referenda in the offing. Mr Gorbachev's handling of them will be crucial, not just to Western responses to his appeal for help, but to the future of the Soviet Union itself. Seldom has an empire put itself to this sort of test. The odds are not good. But the worst has not yet come to pass. All eyes will remain on Moscow this coming month.

FOR ART'S SAKE

Theatre sharpens the mind and imparts civilised values. These also happen to be two functions of education. Should it follow, then, that children ought to experience professional drama at close quarters as a regular part of their schooling? As reported on today's arts page, the chance of their doing so is diminishing, as drama companies aimed specifically at children go out of business.

There is no single culprit involved. Like the decline in school sports, also reported in today's paper, there is more a vague passing of the buck. The Department of Education feels that the Arts Council should pay for theatre enterprises, even those, such as the young people's theatres attached to regional repertory companies, run for educational purposes. The Arts Council has many hungry mouths to feed, and most of these can raise the decibels far higher than an educational theatre company. Some charge-capped local authorities which have supported educational drama now consider it an obvious target for the chop. So do regional repertory theatres struggling to keep open their main houses. The 1988 Education Reform Act has also made it more difficult for state schools to charge parents for theatre visits organised in school hours.

Not even the acting profession is blameless. Appearing in educational theatre is not well paid, but that does not account for the stigma often attached to it. Actors who are "resting" sometimes regard schools theatre as barely preferable to singing telegrams. This has not helped its reputation among parents, teachers or, indeed, children. Tacky productions, often with a hackneyed agit-prop political message, will not foster a love

of theatre or an understanding of English literature. Yet good educational theatre can stimulate pupils as can few other activities.

The smell of greasepaint still works magic on cynical teenagers: contempt, boredom or bafflement can be turned into remarkable enthusiasm. In this respect, film or video productions can never match the physical production of live theatre. Actors can use the allure of their trade to fuel this enthusiasm through discussion and workshops. Because dramatists customarily deal with humanity's great concerns, teenagers not only learn dramatic technique, but also explore their responses to the world outside. Teachers who prepare the ground thoroughly attest that contact with live theatre can be a springboard for classroom lessons for weeks afterwards.

Educational theatre thus pays a sound dividend, not least in building a theatre audience of tomorrow. The government argues that its list of priorities is long enough and that parents must be the ones voluntarily to take children to the theatre. But how stands that argument alongside the draconian powers being taken to insist on the involuntary learning of mathematics or science — or for that matter English, of which drama is an integral part? From Marlowe to Miller, the canon of drama is a locked treasure-chest, waiting for each new generation. Parents have their part to play in goading the schools to find the key. But the key is held by educators and their political masters, or at least is lost somewhere between them. The arts ministry should never have been removed from the aegis of the education department, yielding this typical instance of irresponsibility.

CONSERVATION DOUBLE-SPEAK

The new environment secretary, Michael Heseltine, must turn his attention urgently to one of his old stamping grounds, laws guarding the conservation areas of England and Wales. Next month, the House of Lords hears an appeal against the decision of an earlier incumbent of his chair, Nicholas Ridley, to allow redevelopment of No 1, Poultry, a site covering an entire acre of the City of London's central conservation area.

If this site can be redeveloped, planning lawyers take the view that no conservation area is safe from demolition by a sufficiently determined and wealthy developer. In this case, the developer is ironically the chairman of the Arts Council, Lord Palumbo, who in other guises is expected to protect Britain's cultural heritage. One of the environment department's inspectors recently asserted: "The designation of a conservation area is not in my opinion intended as a means to secure the preservation of buildings that are not judged worthy of listing."

Such a conclusion undermines the whole purpose of having conservation areas at all. Precisely because these areas are usually attractive places to live, work and shop, pressure for redevelopment has constantly risen. But there is a flaw in the legislation. It has allowed developers to exploit. The act does not say that the purpose of a conservation area is to "preserve and enhance" but "preserve or enhance".

Developers argue that there is no reason to refuse them a demolition of any building within a conservation area not specifically listed for preservation, providing the

replacement "enhances" the scene. Such a proviso is not just moot but wholly subjective. In some cases it could enable the demolition of every building that was supposedly conserved, as numerous designated areas do not contain any listed buildings. It was in this spirit that 80 per cent of some conservation areas in the City of London were demolished in the 1970s, making a mockery of designation.

When control over demolition in conservation areas was originally introduced, the government of the day stated the reason clearly and unequivocally: "The demolition of even a single building which may not be architecturally or historically significant in itself and the construction of some new building in its place, could result in the character or appearance of a conservation area, or part of it, being severely prejudiced. In such circumstances the whole purpose of designating the conservation area could be undermined."

This admirable statement was excised from the latest planning circular from Mr Heseltine's department. No conservation area should be frozen for all time — parts of the City of Westminster successfully blend old and new within conservation areas — but the scales are weighted too heavily against conservation. Local planners should be free of the blight of developers able successfully to appeal against them because of poorly drafted legislation. Michael Heseltine should show his disregard for civil service gobbledegook when he issues his new planning policy guidelines shortly. The words "conserve" and "enhance" must not be interchangeable with "demolish".

Unions' role in a free market

From the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress

Sir, Your leader of December 20, "Bridlington haunts TUC", in arguing for a totally free-market approach to trade union membership, reveals a simplistic misunderstanding of the realities of industrial relations. Such an approach would make it impossible for employers and unions to establish stable relationships.

You refer to European practice, but the much vaunted German system is based on industrial unions with very clear designated areas of trade union organisation. There is no question there of any union having rights other than the one recognised to bargain in that industry.

The British system is less clear cut, but the TUC's "Bridlington" procedures provide a means of regulating competition between unions to minimise conflict and prevent the disruption of established agreements. A free-market approach would encourage anarchy, instability and conflict, with damaging consequences for Britain's economic performance.

It has become fashionable for employers setting up new sites to seek single-union agreements. Such agreements would of course be incompatible with the free-market doctrine you espouse.

Inter-union disputes occur from time to time because of changes in work organisation, or technology or ownership or the opening of new plants. The "Bridlington" principles and procedures provide a way of resolving these conflicts without disruption. Through their operation the TUC provides an essential service to the nation.

But inter-union problems are tiny compared with the much bigger problem of workers being denied by their employer the right to be represented by any union. This is the problem that should be addressed by government.

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN WILLIS,
General Secretary,
Trades Union Congress,
Congress House,
Great Russell Street, WC1,
December 21.

From Mr David Wood

Sir, The concept of trades unions operating in the market place on the same basis as Bupa or the AA may at first sight appear attractive for the reasons you state in your leading article. However, you made no reference to the third actor on the stage in addition to the potential member and the union: that is, the employer.

If a person has the right to join any union they wish, this utopian scenario would demand that they have the same right to be represented across the negotiating table by that organisation. Pity the poor employer who had 100 employees in different unions. What is he supposed to do?

The Bridlington agreement is not about the closed shop or any other red herring. It is about seeking to retain order in the complex world of industrial relations where recognition of a union by an employer for negotiating purposes is a vital element. Pure democracy and total freedom of choice sounds fine on paper but is, in fact, a recipe for chaos.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WOOD
(Industrial Relations Officer),
The British Dietetic Association,
Elizabeth House,
22 Suffolk Street Queensway,
Birmingham 1,
December 20.

Privatisation offers

From Mr W. M. Forrest

Sir, As an unsuccessful customer-applicant for electricity shares, I have three questions to ask. Did the words "customer priority application form" effectively warrant that, in the event of an over-subscription, a customer who applied for any number of shares (not less than the minimum) would receive one or more shares ahead of and in the stead of all non-customers?

If so, did that constitute a deception? And did the allocation to non-customers rather than customers result in a pecuniary benefit to any person?

Yours sincerely,
WILL FORREST,
42 Lingfield Road,
Wimbledon Common, SW19.

Case against VAT

From Mr David Irons

Sir, Anthony Hopkinson writes amusingly (December 14) about the complexities of the value-added tax. But perhaps we should remind ourselves that VAT was part of the package we had to accept when we entered the Common Market.

It replaced the much simpler purchase tax, in which duties on goods were sensibly paid once only at the manufacturing or wholesale stage. VAT is for fiscal purposes what the common agricultural policy is for agriculture, a bureaucratic millstone.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID IRONS,
Rhydolys, Llansadwrn,
Menai Bridge, Gwynedd,
December 16.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

No-fault medical compensation

From Mrs Margaret Puxon, QC

Sir, The principle of no-fault compensation (leading article, December 12) sounds a fine, liberal piece of "common justice". But to whom is this justice to be expended? To the victims of medical accidents alone, it appears; but what of the innocent victims of road traffic accidents, unable to obtain compensation unless they prove negligence on the part of another road user?

The child, brain-damaged in a road accident, may need as much care and suffer as great a loss of amenity as one similarly damaged during the birth process or by a hypoxic incident during anaesthesia; and he may have to go through years of legal process to obtain damages which will only be awarded on proof that his sufferings were directly caused by the defendant's negligence.

This is a funny kind of justice. So we must ask *cu bono*? Can it be that those who favour no-fault compensation in medical cases are considering the interests of the doctor or, to be fair, the protection of the doctor/patient relationship, rather than the general public good with equal treatment for all?

If there is to be no-fault compensation, logically it should be extended to the unfortunate victims of genetic accident, such as spina bifida, cystic fibrosis, or Down's syndrome, who demand our sympathy for their blighted lives and have material means rivaling those of the victims of medical accidents. Limitless vistas of compensation for the unfortunate stretch out ahead.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET PUXON,
Francis Taylor Building,
Temple, EC4.

From Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, MP for Newbury (Conservative)

Sir, In her otherwise excellent report (December 13) Jill Sherman states that "there is a growing base of support for a system of no-fault compensation under which all victims of medical accidents would get state support irrespective of whether medical negligence can be proved."

Not every mishap in hospital is a compensatable medical accident. Hospitals are full of disease and infection simply because they are places for the sick. Those who go to them are either ill or in need of surgery. Thus becoming an inpatient means they accept a level of health risk.

I do not think any compensation scheme can handle that level of risk without becoming unreasonably

A new world order

From Canon G. B. Bentley

Sir, If the international force, with UN authority, launches an attack to expel the Iraqis from Kuwait, it will not, properly speaking, be going to war: it will be carrying out a police operation. The Security Council was intended from the first to organise the policing of trouble-spots, but for years it dithered helplessly, unable to agree on action. Now at last it has empowered member states to deal with a case of international delinquency.

Where police action is concerned we do not ordinarily ask if the result will justify the cost of the action because we take the supreme importance of maintaining law and order for granted. In the present case, however, there are questions that demand answers.

Do the UN resolutions go far enough? If the international force succeeds in expelling the Iraqis from Kuwait but, being restricted by the UN, does not go on to disarm them, can that be regarded as effective

Lotteries dilemma

From Mr R. A. Cummins

Sir, The potential to make huge sums of money for the arts, recreation and research by establishing a national lottery ("Moves towards national lottery gather pace", December 21) is purely an exaggerated dream. Accurate performance figures for most of the world's lotteries are published annually by the International Association of State Lotteries. While these figures are impressive, they cannot be used to extrapolate the possible performance of a national lottery in the UK.

Most national lotteries have a total monopoly of all legal gambling. In the UK, where almost every form of gambling is allowed, the public's gambling habits are highly stable and well served by established organisations.

Where lotteries have been introduced, after long periods of total gambling prohibition, as in America, their instant success can be understood. In North America a debate has been going on in a number of states and provinces

Legal aid work

From Mr Martin Kurrein

Sir, The public will be understandably concerned at today's report (December 13) on the number of solicitors who are withdrawing from legal aid practice. It is, in fact, only solicitors who are entitled to refuse to accept instructions for legally-aided clients.

It is a fundamental principle of practice for all barristers, as defined in the code of conduct of the Bar of England and Wales, that

... he must in any field in which he professes to practise and irrespective of whether his client is paying privately or is legally aided or otherwise publicly funded: (a) accept any brief to appear before a court...; (b) accept

expensive. Indeed it is interesting to note that in Finland and Sweden, which have compensation schemes, only 60 per cent of those who make claims get anything. Their schemes accept medical accidents according to the definition set down in their legislation.

If we are intending to follow them — and I am one of the sponsors of Mrs Rosie Barnes's bill — I suggest we will have to follow suit.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MCNAIR-WILSON,
House of Commons.

From Mr David Bolt

Sir, In your timely and cogent leading article on no-fault compensation you state that "the medical profession has started pressing for it, too". In fact, there has been pressure since 1983 when, in response to requests from members, the British Medical Association set up a working party to study how best a no-fault compensation system might be achieved.

In January 1989, in collaboration with the Royal Society of Medicine, a symposium on the subject was held in London, during which the BMA described, in detail, how such a system could be operated. A report on its likely cost, on the times proposed by the association, should be ready for publication in early January.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BOLT (Chairman,
No-fault compensation working party),
British Medical Association,
BMA House,
Tavistock Square, WC1.

From Miss Ruth E. Allen

Sir, Miss Sarah Leigh states (December 13) that "each child with cerebral palsy is an overwhelming disaster for its family, for the health service and above all for itself."

Initially, the knowledge of a child having cerebral palsy must be devastating for all the family, but this need not last. Positive thought, action and attitude are important and the disability may not be overall. There are several degrees of cerebral palsy and many variations as to the level of handicap. Coping with them is relative to the difficulties experienced.

Although having cerebral palsy myself I am fortunate enough not to be "disabled" by it at all, having a responsible position in a full-time capacity, and with good career prospects.

I remain, yours faithfully,
RUTH E. ALLEN,
6 Elgin Road, Croydon, Surrey.

police action? Will not the delinquents be left in a position to renew their depredations whenever they judge the time to be ripe? And, if so, does the restricted objective outweigh the casualties its pursuit will entail?

Our answers will depend on the value we set on the slow and often disheartening process of creating a world order. I am inclined to think myself that giving effect to the welcome new decisiveness of the UN is crucially important, even though the resolution does not go as far as could be wished.

If the international force succeeds in liberating Kuwait, it will increase respect for the Security Council, give international law and order a needed shot in the arm, and bring a salutary deterrent influence to bear on Iraq or any other state contemplating lawless action in the future.

Yours faithfully,
G. B. BENTLEY,
5 The Cloisters,
Windsor Castle, Berkshire,
December 21.

about spending the lottery proceeds on the arts.

The predominant American lottery player is from socio-economic groups C1 and C2, whereas the American audience for the arts is predominantly socio-economic group AB, who least support their state lotteries. Local politicians of a populist persuasion argue, why should an elitist audience be subsidised by those who would benefit more if the lottery profits were spent on more generally used services?

In 1980 you published a Mori poll indicating a public preference for health care to receive the profits from any proposed national lottery. This seems to indicate that the American idea that the players should have some indirect benefit from their "folly" would also have strong support in the UK.

Yours sincerely,
R. A. CUMMINS
(Executive Director),
NHS Loto,
National Hospital Trust,
119 Horseley Fields,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands,
December 21.

any instructions; (c) act for any person.

Any breach of this rule amounts to professional misconduct, for which a barrister may be reported.

As solicitors and barristers are the sole legal professionals who have rights of audience in the courts of this country, may we expect those solicitors who wish to exercise those rights to be bound by similar rules, or will the rights of the ordinary person be further eroded by the Treasury's parsimony and the greed of those solicitors (unlike many I know with substantial and profitable legal aid practices) who decline such work?

Yours,
MARTIN KURREIN,
2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, EC4.

Italians seen as good Europeans

From the Ambassador of Italy

Sir, One of your leader writers ("O Sole Mio", December 13) wrote recently to Italy and was surprised to see so many Fiat's, so many Italian domestic appliances and so many Olivetti computers, and draws the conclusion that the Italians are consequently bad Europeans. He probably does not travel much. Had he been to France he would not fail to have noticed a large number of Renault's, whilst in Germany he would have been struck by the number of Volkswagens.

I rather sympathise with the poor chap's feelings. There aren't too many British cars to be seen around anywhere these days, nor washing-machines (one large manufacturer in the UK is in fact Italian but has to sell its products under an English name in order to please the market); whilst many British computer companies are being bought up by the Japanese.

The figure for imports from other European countries in relation to GNP may be slightly lower for Italy than it is for Britain or France (though why not include exports as well?), and true, the inflation rate in Italy is higher than it is in Germany (though still almost half that of Britain's). So what?

Rather more serious, however, is the argument regarding Italy's poor record in applying EC directives. But this is due to elaborate legislative procedures, which are in-built in the system, rather than to a lack of European spirit. Why don't we bet that by next spring, thanks to priority which will be given in parliamentary procedures to European legislation, Italy will rate third or fourth as far as incorporation of EC directives into national law is concerned? Will the Italians thereby become good Europeans?

May I suggest that true feelings towards Europe are reflected not only in statistics but in the kind of livid comments on the performance of partners such as those contained in your editorial. As long as I don't see an article on Britain in an Italian newspaper entitled "Humpty Dumpty", I shall feel reasonably reassured.

Yours faithfully,
BORIS BIANCHERI,
Italian Embassy,
1 Grosvenor Square, W1,
December 20.

School music

From the Headmaster of the Yehudi Menuhin School

Sir, Michael Kellner (December 17) rightly warns us of the cuts now facing musical instrument tuition in our schools. Without the free instrumental tuition provided by the local education authorities, many of the highly gifted pupils at the Yehudi Menuhin School would never have had the opportunity to start learning a musical instrument, nor would their talent ever have been discovered.

In my experience, exceptional young musicians frequently come from families least able to afford private lessons. It would be a tragedy if the change to "local management in schools" meant that this country's children were denied the opportunity even to begin to develop their musical gifts.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS CHISHOLM,
The Yehudi Menuhin School,
Stoke d'Abernethy, Cobham, Surrey,
December 18.

Poll tax changes

From Mr W. L. Abernethy

Sir, How the wheel turns full circle! From 1934 to 1956 I was a member of a study group under the chairmanship of Mr F. A. (now Lord) Cockfield, set up by the Royal Institute of Public Administration to examine new sources of revenue for local authorities. Our report, published in 1956, recommended, among other things, that local authorities should be given power to levy a local income tax.

The government of the day thanked us for our suggestion, and that was the last we heard of it. I now recommend its perusal to Mr Heseltine.

Yours faithfully,
W. L. ABERNETHY,
6 Thornhill Close,
Port Erin, Isle of Man.

Dear diaries

From Dr M. J. Kinch

Sir, At this time of the year I am invited to pay as much as £10 for a desk diary, a book consisting of about 400 all-but-blank pages which I have to fill in myself. The same price buys me a book three times as thick, with its pages already filled in with the complete works of William Shakespeare.

Yours faithfully,
M. KINCH,
32a Chiltern Road,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire,
December 22.

Doing nicely?

From Mr Tim Owen

Sir, American Express wrote to me offering an accident protection plan paying up to £250,000 in the event of "death or dismemberment due to a serious accident". It is not clear that this includes cover for both in the event of a less than serious accident.

Yours faithfully,
TIM OWEN,
101 North Street,
Burwell, Cambridge,
December 22.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
December 24: The Prince of Wales arrived at Royal Air Force Marham this morning from Saudi Arabia.
Major-General Sir Chris

topher Airy and Commander Richard Aylard, RN, were in attendance.
December 25: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

Birthdays today

Miss Anne Armstrong, American diplomat, 63; Viscount Astor, 39; Sir Gordon Brunt, former president, International Thomson Organisation, 69; Captain N.F. Crump, racehorse trainer, 80; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Thomas Devitt, shipbroker and former rugby player, 88; Miss Marlene Dietrich, actress, 86; Professor Brian Griffiths (life peer), economist, 49; Air Chief Marshal Sir Derek Hodgkinson, 73.
The Earl of Incheape, 73; Viscount Knutsford, 64; Miss Pat Moss, former rally driver,

56; Professor D.H. Northcote, master, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 69; Sir Anthony Pownman, former High Court judge, 85; Professor B.R. Rees, former principal, St David's University College, Lampeter, 71; Sir Norman Reid, former director, Tate Gallery, 75; Dr E.C. Salhouse, master, University College, Durham, 55; Sir Jeffrey Sterling (life peer), chairman, Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, 56; Miss Janet Street-Porter, broadcaster, 44; the Right Rev. A.M.A. Turnbull, Bishop of Rochester, 55; Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, former director, WRAC, 87.

Recession a catalyst for church action

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

THE ROLE of the church will become more crucial if governments make economic cuts to weather a recession in the West, according to a Church of England report which addresses some of the problems of inner city regeneration.

The gospel teachings of love, justice, peace and integrity must be related to quality, efficiency and profitability, especially when focused on the needs and aspirations of inner cities, the report says.

A combination of spiritual criteria and practical concepts could help transform inner cities, according to the report. The Rev Chris Beales, the author, calls for new ideas to bring about "the changes that are so urgently needed."

Mr Beales, secretary of the Industrial and Economic Affairs Committee of the General Synod's Board for Social Responsibility, says: "My experience of too many projects in urban priority areas has been that there are already enough car repairs,

window cleaners and odd jobs around. New, risky, imaginative proposals are needed in places where everything else has been tried and found wanting."

In the report, Mr Beales argues it is not just a matter of "individual entrepreneurs coming out of the woodwork with their brilliant schemes."

"Such people are rarely to be found in depressed areas, and if they do exist, and their ideas are good ones, they'll not be sticking around in that locality for long."

He called for a "collective identification of real needs" followed by a systematic strategy.

Mr Beales, who based his study on a three-week visit to the US, said the report was intended as a contribution to debate and not to represent the policy of the board.

Mainstream and Marginal: Creating Economic Change in Inner City Life, £1.35 Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1 3NZ.

Passing-out parade at Dartmouth

Vice-Admiral Sir Kenneth Eaton, Controller of the Navy, took the salute at the passing-out parade at the Britannia Royal Naval College on December 20.

Officers passing out:

General List
Acting Sub Lieutenants: P A Brown, C Green, J P Ryan, A Sweeney.

Midshipmen: J W Atwill, M G Bird, J B Boyle, J W Bradford, C R Carlisle, T Dearman, A P Drodge, M J Ketteringham, K Macaulay, C A Murdoch, M R Offord, D Patterson, A M Pym, J P Skinner, B M Stephens, M T Tomlyn, S M Williamson, D M Wilman, P J Wynell, Sutherland.

Supplementary List

Acting Sub Lieutenants: N M Bennett, M C Best, S W Hamilton, J S Lower.

Midshipmen: N J Addison, R Allen, A D Bissell, D D Buckley, C L Chapman, R R Childs, P A Clarke, S P Connolly, S Craggs, P G Douglas, J H De Salaberry, Lewis, P M Dellar, W A Fletcher, A M Flower, R R Forman, R P Goodbody, A D Goshing, H I Gunn, J A Haine, C S Hall, M I Hamilton, A P Hartley, L S Hendy, J Hider, M Hodger, J G Hughes, T O Hughes, D C Hurndall, R J Lindsey, C Lovick, H Muntz, M A Nicholls, J M Penrose, J Pugh, K Reeves, S Reid, J Sandford, I C Sherman, R I Smallwood, S R Speirs, S J Wallace, J F Webb.

Supplementary List (Air)

Acting Sub Lieutenants: D A Fielder, S J Hill, D J Lindsay, S J

Moulton, G L Richardson, J R

Warne.

Midshipmen: G Allison, T C Birmingham, S P Bratby, M Brayson, G S Duncan, T F Gregory, A J Grunwell, C R Hudson, P J Jones, M S Long, R J Lord, K R Mercer, S D Mills, D Pilkington, A M Roberts, A Rowley, G A Stubbs, T J Waite, P A Waldron, R S Ward.

Instructor Officers

Lieutenants: M Albion, D I Channer, S M Holland, W D Norris, W A Owen, S Taylor. Acting Sub Lieutenants: K D Kirk, M P McGinley, G Oliver.

Special Duties List

Acting Sub Lieutenant: A S Arnold, M C Baker, E J Beaton, C A Bridgewater, J D Coyne, N P Doyle, M Gudgeon, M G Helliwell, A Horne, S W Hunt, M D Johnson, J Kerr, R Knights, G Miller, R P Stephens, A D Stillwell-Cox, R D Swift, L J Thorpe, R S Tucker, E G Walker, M Wardle, M J Willis, S W Wright, C Wyatt.

International Midshipmen

Second Lieutenants: N S Mohammed Abdullah, M Z Mohammed Gassen. Midshipmen: A Abdullah Salim, S A Ali Moosa, A Bader Mohammed, C R Darville, A K Gregory, R A Hamood, S Hammad, M L Hanna, B Harib Al Mass, S A Ibrahim Ahmed, K A Khamis Said, R E King, A B Mohammed Abdul, O S Mohammed Ali, H Saeed Nabyah, B Tani, Essa, A Thani Harith, E M Wright. Officer Cadets: A K Rahaimi, A R Zil Husam.

OBITUARIES

FOY KOHLER



Mr Foy D. Kohler, United States ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1962 to 1966, died in hospital in Jupiter, Florida, on December 23 aged 82. He was born on February 15, 1908.

FOY Kohler had been in Moscow as US ambassador for less than a month when the Cuban missile crisis broke, involving him in important liaison work as tensions between the American and Soviet leadership mounted. Kohler had been sent to Washington by President Kennedy to keep open channels of communication at a difficult time. He had deep experience of eastern Europe, spoke Russian and was well known to the Soviet leader, Mr Khrushchev, whom he had accompanied on his tour of the United States in 1959. Kohler had also been a member of the Berlin task force during the crisis over the city in 1961.

When in October 1962 President Kennedy informed the American people that the Soviet Union had placed offensive missiles in Cuba and ordered United States warships to intercept Soviet ships bound there, Kohler became a conduit for the intensive back-stage diplomacy that followed, as fears of a head-on clash between the two super powers mounted. In the upshot this diplomacy enabled Khrushchev to climb down from his publicly stated position and recall the missiles from Cuba, and Kennedy's assurance that Cuba would, in consequence, be safe from American attack, defused a most dangerous crisis in relations between East and West, which had at moments seemed to threaten the world with the spectre of nuclear war.

Foy David Kohler was a far cry from the tall, elegant Ivy League-educated animal to

which the world had become accustomed in American diplomats at that date. He was born in Oakwood, Ohio, and took degrees at Toledo and Ohio State universities. He was a stocky man with an accent often described as "that of the plains of northern Ohio". He entered the US foreign service in 1931 and after a series of postings including Bucharest, Belgrade and Athens, spent some time at the American embassy in London during the war. From 1946 onwards he was more or less directly concerned with Soviet affairs. After attending the conference at San Francisco which resulted in the birth of the United Nations, he went in 1948 as, suc-

cessively, first secretary, counsellor and minister to the US embassy in Moscow. This experience, allied to his knowledge of Russian and the Russian psychology, made him realise that patient determination was an essential component of all dealings with the Soviet Union. In 1949 he was brought back from Moscow and put in charge of expanding the overseas broadcasting of Voice of America.

In 1958 he became deputy assistant secretary of state for European affairs and developed a close understanding of the Berlin problem. As well as arranging most of the details of Khrushchev's US tour he accompanied Richard Nixon

when, as US vice-president, he visited the Soviet Union in 1959. On that occasion Kohler's authority in Soviet circles, indeed with Khrushchev himself, was decisive in ensuring that Nixon's speeches were broadcast in their entirety in the USSR and that his informal talks with Soviet officials were interpreted by an American, not by a Russian. During his period as ambassador in Moscow Kohler had a good deal of personal contact with the Soviet leadership. Though he nursed an ultimate conviction that US-Soviet relations could be improved he was never under any illusions that it would be an uphill struggle. He always advised professional colleagues never to make the mistake of viewing any problem concerning the intentions of the Soviet Union in isolation, but to see the USSR's foreign policy as an organic whole.

Kohler left Moscow in 1966 to become deputy under secretary of state for political affairs but he retired from diplomacy soon afterwards and from 1968 to 1980 he taught at the University of Miami's graduate centre for advanced foreign studies. He published a number of books on the Soviet Union including *Understanding the Russians: a citizen's primer* (1970) and a number of jointly written studies on Soviet strategy. *Salt II: how not to negotiate with the Russians* appeared in 1979 and encapsulated much of his wisdom on the topic.

While he had been in Moscow in 1946-47 his wife, Phyllis, had read the journal of the Marquis de Custine, who had been a French diplomat in St Petersburg in 1839. Intrigued by the similarities between Tsarist and Soviet Russia, she translated and edited the journal which was published as *Journey for Our Time* in 1951. She survives him.

DR GEOFFREY WEST



Dr Geoffrey Buckle West, former reader in pharmacology at the London School of Pharmacy and the North East London Polytechnic, died on December 5 aged 74. He was born on September 13, 1916.

GEOFFREY West was one of the pioneers of modern immunopharmacology. His discovery, with J. F. Riley in 1952, of the localisation of histamine in tissue mast cells laid the foundations for much of our current understanding of allergic and inflammatory disease and formed the basis of research by countless scientists throughout the world.

Geoffrey West graduated Bachelor of Pharmacy in 1938 from the College of the Pharmaceutical Society, later known as the School of Pharmacy of the University of London. He was appointed as a demonstrator in physiology under the headship of J. H. (later Sir Jack) Gaddum and then placed in charge of the department of physiology and pharmacology within the London School of Pharmacy, following its evacuation to University College, Cardiff, in 1939. While in Cardiff West began his future wife, Jean. He continued his research there on the hormone adrenaline and obtained his PhD in 1942 before returning to London with the School of Pharmacy in 1944. In 1947 he spent nine months working in Edinburgh with Gaddum and then returned to a lectureship at the

School of Pharmacy in 1948.

In 1950, he moved to a senior appointment in Dundee in the department of clinical pharmacology at what was then the University of St Andrews. In Dundee West forged a collaboration with J. F. Riley and in late 1952 they reported that tissue mast cells were the main storage site of histamine, which is responsible for many of the immediate symptoms of allergy and inflammation. This finding was of monumental importance and provoked the most intensive worldwide research into the biology of the mast cell. This activity ultimately led to completely novel approaches to the treatment of allergic disease. Between 1952 and 1955 more than 20 papers were published in learned scientific journals and Geoffrey West was awarded the DSc by the

University of London in 1954.

He returned again to the School of Pharmacy in 1955, now as a reader in pharmacology, and began work on the mechanisms involved in oedema formation in rats following injection of the sugar polymer dextran. This effect resembles the condition of angioneurotic oedema in the human being, an often life-threatening response which may accompany severe allergic reactions. In the course of this work, West identified and propagated a colony of rats that were resistant to the effects of dextran. Together with H. Kalms, he showed that this hereditary trait was a clear example of the genetic control of mast cell reactivity. Importantly, the animals were also resistant to other forms of traumatic shock and the colony provided the basis for further studies, spanning 20 years in all, which covered the relationship between histamine formation, the growth of tumours, the pregnancy state, the blood sugar level and seasonal variations in response to drugs and chemicals.

In 1964 West was awarded the annual biology prize of the New York Academy of Sciences. In 1965 he was appointed scientific secretary to the British Industrial Biological Research Association (BIBRA). There he applied his talents to essential problems of toxicology. He returned to academic life in 1970 as reader in pharmacology at the North

East London Polytechnic. He continued his work there on the cellular mechanisms involved in allergy and inflammation and methods for their inhibition, until his formal retirement in 1982.

West was co-editor of the series *Progress in Medicinal Chemistry and Pseudo-Allergic Reactions* and for 25 years was one of the editors-in-chief of the *International Archives of Allergy and Applied Immunology*. For 10 years from 1974 he was secretary-general of the European Histamine Research Society. The scientific career of Geoffrey West is summarized in his autobiographical account *A Handful of Luck*. The title of the book is typically modest. All was not based on luck but on radical insight and scientific excellence.

Geoffrey West had many interests outside the world of science, most of them involving an active participation in his local Surrey community. When in 1967 an appeal was launched to rebuild what later became the Thorndike Theatre in Leatherhead, he joined and subsequently became chairman of a group of supporters most of whom have remained together ever since. During his time in Dundee he acquired an enthusiasm for Scottish dancing which continued until the end of his life. He was past president of the Epsom Caledonian Association.

His wife, Jean, and their son and daughter survive him.

BETTY WARREN

Betty Warren, actress, died on December 15 aged 83. She was born on October 31, 1907.

A VERSATILE performer, as character actress, mimic, singer and variety artist, Betty Warren was a great favourite in theatres throughout Britain in the 1920s and 1930s. A redoubtable trouper of the music halls from an early age she entertained British soldiers in both world wars as well as on stage in London and the provinces.

She was born Babette Hilda O'Hagan in Fareham, Hampshire, and went to school in Southsea. She began appearing on stage as a child, singing for soldiers in hospital at Portsmouth during the first world war. After the war she performed at the King's Theatre, Southsea, and with her homely, pleasant features she became widely known on the variety circuit. She earned the nickname "The Impassioned Girl", a reference to her ability to impersonate other stage performers of her time.

Between the wars she was seen at most of the main variety theatres in London and the provinces. Among her many West End appearances were *The London Revue* at the Lyceum (1925) and *Balalaika* at His Majesty's Theatre in 1937.

The beginning of the second world war saw her entertaining the troops again, this time,

as one of the earliest members of Ensa, singing and dancing for the British Expeditionary Force in France. After Dunkirk she was back in the West End in the short-lived *Fig Leaves* (1940) and in other shows such as *Present Arms* at the Prince of Wales (1940) and *Waltz Without End* at the Cambridge (1942). She also spent two years touring *The Golden Fleece* and *Three's a Family*. With six other actresses she took part in what were known as "girl friends of the forces" broadcasts to Empire soldiers serving overseas. Her broadcast was to Australians in the Middle East.

Her career continued after the war well into the 1950s. She was on stage with Noel Coward and Margaret Leighton in the Coronation production of Bernard Shaw's *The Apple Cart*, and with Kenneth Williams in Sandy Wilson's *The Buccaneers* (1956). In 1957 she appeared with Donald Pleasence as Mai Zetterling's mother in Jean Anouilh's *The Restless Heart*.

In films she is remembered for her performance as Bessie Bellwood in *Champagne Charlie* (1944) in which she sang the ditty "Come on Algonquin". She also appeared with Stanley Holloway in the Ealing comedy *Passport to Pimlico* in 1949.

She was twice married, to Lawrence Wright, the theatrical composer, and to Lloyd Shakespeare, a musician. She is survived by her daughter, Lorette.



CLARENCE JOHNSON

Clarence Johnson, American aircraft designer, has died in Burbank, California, aged 80. He was born on February 27, 1910.

CLARENCE "Kelly" Johnson was the creator of more than 40 civilian and military planes, ranging from the P-38 Lightning of the second world war to the U-2 and SR-71 spy planes. He was the creator of Lockheed's top secret research facility known as the "Skunk Works" which he launched in 1943. He designed the first jet fighter to go into production in the United States, the XP-80, prototype of the F-80 Shooting Star, which was produced from the drawing board in 143 days.

Among other aircraft he helped design were the Constellation transport, the Hercules cargo plane, the P-2V Neptune anti-submarine patrol aircraft, the Agona spacecraft and the F-104 Starfighter, the fastest fighter plane of its day, capable of

twice the speed of sound.

The U-2 was the first aircraft able to make a sustained flight above 60,000 feet and played an important role in high altitude reconnaissance in the cold war period. That it was not invulnerable to the Soviet Union's air defences was demonstrated when one was brought down in May 1960 and its pilot, Gary Powers, made a prisoner. Its successor, the SR-71 Blackbird, remains one of the fastest and highest flying planes in the world and can sustain speeds of over 2,000mph above 85,000 feet.

Johnson started as a tool designer at Lockheed's Burbank plant in 1933 and retired in 1975 as a senior vice president. He remained a senior adviser to Lockheed until his death. He received the Medal of Freedom, America's highest civil decoration, from President Johnson in 1964.

He is survived by his third wife, Nancy.

Astronomy

The sky at night in January: Time of eclipse

By MICHAEL J. HENDRIE
ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY is a morning star throughout January reaching greatest western elongation (24 deg) on the 14th. During the first half of the month it rises nearly an hour and a half before the Sun, increasing in brightness from +0.4 to -0.2 magnitude.

This month is a favourable time to see Mercury in the dawn sky and is well worth looking for as dawn comes late when many are up and about.

The bright orange-red star Antares in Scorpius will be higher in the sky than Mercury and to the right or south and moves further round towards the south during the month. On the morning of the 13th the thin crescent Moon will lie to the south-east. Mercury will be at its easiest to see about this date. The Moon will be close to Antares on the 12th.

Venus will be an evening star until early August and in April and May will set later than 23h, or four hours after the Sun, when it will be a brilliant object in the north-western sky. Starting the year

low in the south-west after sunset it begins to draw away from the Sun during the month. Its easterly motion along the ecliptic also carries it northwards by as much as 10 degrees by the 31st when it will be setting nearly two hours after the Sun.

Venus passes only a degree from Saturn on the 1st when it might be possible to identify Saturn in binoculars. The crescent Moon will be above Venus on the evening of the 17th.

Mars reaches a stationary point in Taurus on the 1st when its westward motion reverses and the planet begins to move eastwards among the stars again. This eastwards motion will keep it ahead of the Sun until conjunction in November. During January it fades from -1.0 to 0.0 magnitude. The Moon will be near by on the 25th.

Jupiter is in Cancer and at opposition on the 29th when it will be due south at midnight. Now that Mars has declined in brightness, Jupiter at -2.6 magnitude is much the brightest planet visible in the

late evening and second half of the night. The Moon passes 2 degrees to the south of Jupiter on the 2nd and again on the 30th.

Saturn is in conjunction with the Sun on the 18th, passing beyond the Sun at a distance of some 1,600 million km (1,000 million miles). It will appear too close to the Sun to be visible this month.

Uranus is at conjunction on 31st December and will not be observable. It will be 3,100 million km (1,900 million miles) from the Earth in January.

Neptune is in conjunction with the Sun on the 5th and will not be observable. It will be 4,700 million km (2,900 million miles) from the Earth. The Moon: last quarter, 7d 19h; new Moon, 16d 00h; first quarter, 23d 14h; full Moon, 30d 06h.

The Earth is at perihelion, its closest to the Sun, on the 3rd when the distance from the Sun will be 147 million kilometres (91.3 million miles).

Sunset on the 1st is at 16h 00m and on the 31st at 16h 45m while sunrise is at 08h

08m and 7h 40m on the same dates. Astronomical Twilight ends at 18h 05m and 18h 45m early and late in the month and begins at 06h 00m and 05h 45m.

Algol, the variable star in Perseus, can be seen when faintest about the following times: January: 2d 21h, 20d 01h, 22d 22h and 25d 19h.

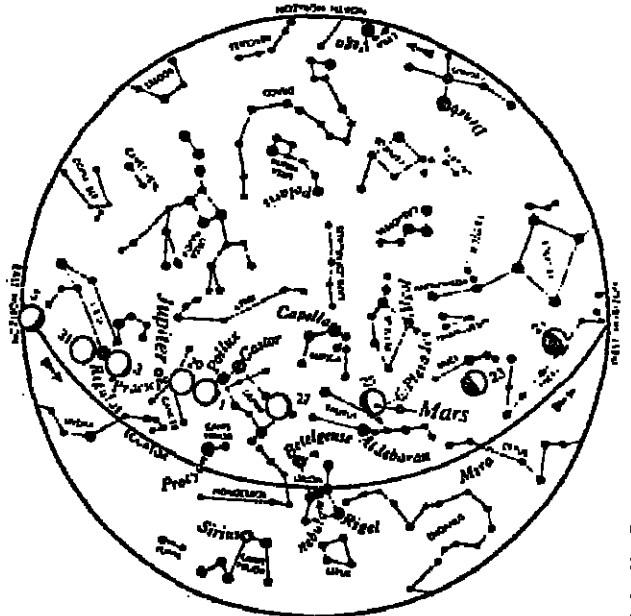
There will be a penumbral eclipse of the Moon on 30d 06h visible from Western Europe, including the British Isles, Africa and the Americas. During a penumbral eclipse the Moon does not enter the darker part of the Earth's shadow (the umbra) and so may be only slightly darkened even at mid-eclipse and it may not be obvious to the casual observer. It is not possible to predict with any certainty how dark any lunar eclipse will be.

There will be an annular eclipse of the Sun on the 15th/16th visible from extreme south-western Australia, Tasmania, central parts of New Zealand and the central Pacific Ocean. A partial solar eclipse will be seen outside this immediate area over

Australasia, the Pacific and parts of Antarctica.

An eclipse is said to be annular when the Moon appears too small to completely cover the Sun as it does at a total eclipse. This leaves a ring or annulus of the Sun's surface still visible at mid-eclipse. Both total and annular eclipses arise because the Moon's size appears to vary as its distance from the Earth changes during each month, and the apparent size of the Sun varies to a smaller extent as the Earth's distance from the Sun changes during the year. In January the Sun appears large because the Earth is closer to the Sun while it happens that the Moon is furthest from the Earth on the 12th, only three days before the eclipse.

During the first half of 1991 it will be interesting to follow the motion of Venus, Mars and Jupiter. Now spread right across the early evening sky from south-west to north-east, they will all come together in a tight grouping in the north-western sky during June.



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (11 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle, and 21h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes

Forthcoming marriages

Lieutenant L.M. Hallam and Miss A.K.V. Cornwell-Menzies, of Blackwater, Hampshire, are happy to announce the engagement of their younger daughter Anna to Iain, son of Major and Mrs J. Hallam, of Cleveleys, Lancashire.

Major M.A. Hill, RA and Miss F.J. Hart. The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs David M. Hill, of Headley Down, Hampshire, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen R. Hart, of Checkendon, Oxfordshire.

Dr I.D. Smith and Miss J.A. Farguson. The engagement is announced between Douglas, son of Mr and Mrs G.D.M. Smith, of Irthington, Cumbria, and Julie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.J. Farguson, of Tottenham, London.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Dr John Mack to be Keeper of Ethnography at the British Museum, in succession to Mr Malcolm McLeod. Dr Mack was joined the department in 1976, will take up his appointment on January 2.

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttford

Schizophrenia and stress

Despite reports to the contrary Sophia Sutcliffe is as likely to have been the victim of inherent weaknesses in her own psyche as of her husband's behaviour, her alleged hounding by the press, or the tensions of the recent libel case. These incidents probably only provoked a response which was already predictable.

There was evidence during Mrs Sutcliffe's long engagement to her husband that she was psychiatrically fragile. Its strain resulted in a "nervous breakdown" which was diagnosed as being due to schizophrenia. Schizophrenic persons are often attracted to each other; her husband is now in Broadmoor suffering from this disease.

Acute episodes of schizophre-

nia can be provoked by emotional landmarks in a patient's life, such as marriage, pregnancy, loss of job or bereavement, and also by illnesses. Relapses can be induced by similar episodes if the tension becomes too great. Few things could be more trying for a patient with a history of schizophrenia than having to live through the trial and imprisonment of a spouse.

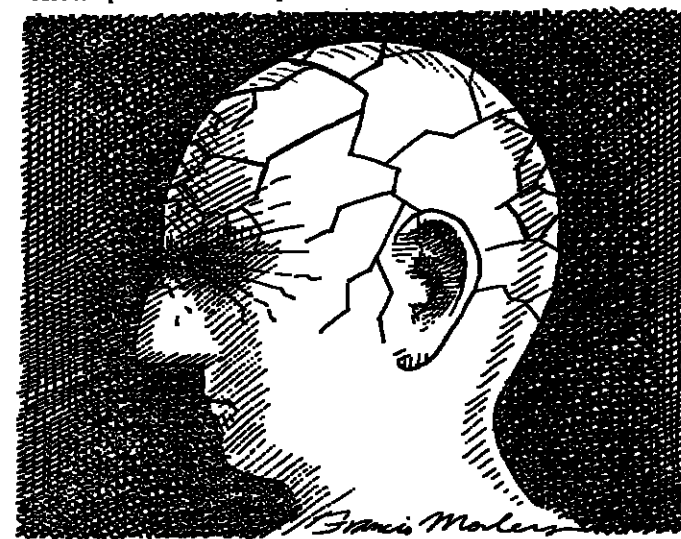
Although detailed statistics differ, most authorities agree that between a third and a quarter of schizophrenic patients make an apparent recovery from an acute episode; in the others, the recovery is limited, and with it their ability to face the changes and chances of this fleeting world. All agree that the outcome is better when a case has a

sudden onset, or when it is a reaction to a definite event, or if there is a good response to treatment.

Relapse is less likely if the patient has some insight, and can be persuaded to take long-term anti-psychotic drugs, and to reorganise his or her life to minimise stress — institutional life is ideal. Many of the traditional eccentric Oxbridge dons beloved by Victorians and Edwardians seem to have had obvious schizoid personalities, with difficulties in relationships, excessive sensitivity and obsessive beliefs.

Patients who do not make a complete recovery tend to be apathetic and withdrawn. In lay terms they are often described as "very private people". It matters little if they keep themselves to themselves, wear odd clothing, neglect their appearance, or even if their time-keeping becomes chaotic as they change night into day, but they can be more difficult to tolerate if they become obsessed by extreme political views and causes, or if they develop delusions of grandeur or persecution.

Mrs Sutcliffe on her own admission is emotionally destroyed; she has displayed an obvious obsession with litigation, sometimes a manifestation of a persecutory delusion. Her failure to show any response to the jury's verdict was at best unexpected, or emotionally inappropriate. She should be encouraged to retreat, hidden by her dark spectacles, to the private life for which she hankers.



Calming those gut feelings

While it is rare not to overeat during the festive season, turkey and Christmas pudding, even when coupled with the strong drinks sometimes needed to dissolve family feuds, are casualties. The ulcer which had been quiescent for years starts to play up, the hiatus hernia with its accompanying oesophagitis makes its presence known by waves of heartburn. Indigestion in all its forms is rife during the season of goodwill, but above all

overeating causes symptoms of oesophageal reflux, pain and heartburn which have resulted from the acid stomach contents tipping over on to the lining of the oesophagus (the gullet), a surface which was never designed to withstand acidity. This season of dyspepsia is an appropriate time for Reckitt & Colman to announce that it has improved the formula of Gaviscon, perhaps the best-known reflux suppressant.

Gaviscon, in common with



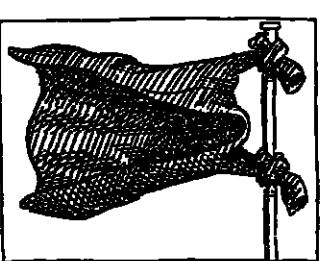
other reflux suppressants, contains alginate acid, combined with aluminium hydroxide, magnesium trisilicate and sodium bicarbonate. The mixture forms an acid raft which floats around on the surface of the gastric contents, thereby bathing the inflamed walls of the stomach and oesophagus. The sodium bicarbonate produces bubbles, which increase the buoyancy of the raft. Reckitt & Colman claims that the Gaviscon raft is more than four times stronger than the raft produced by standard BPC preparations, so strong that it not only acts as a balm for the inflamed surface, but prevents the gastric contents escaping into the oesophagus.

Smith, Kline and French also manufactures a novel alginate acid reflux suppressant; the preparation, Alginate, combines alginate acid with its well-tried H₂ blocker, Tagamet, thereby reducing acid secretion as well as providing an antacid balm for the inflamed surfaces.

Chill warning

The first cold snap of the winter has been followed by the inevitable lengthening of the obituary columns in the newspapers. Exposure to cold does not always strike at once; the number of heart attacks (coronary thromboses) peaks 24 hours after exposure to chilling, and of strokes, three days later. Work at the Royal London hospital has shown that exposure to cold for a short time can often be tolerated; 20 minutes, time enough usually to wait for a bus, seems to be about the safe limit of tolerance.

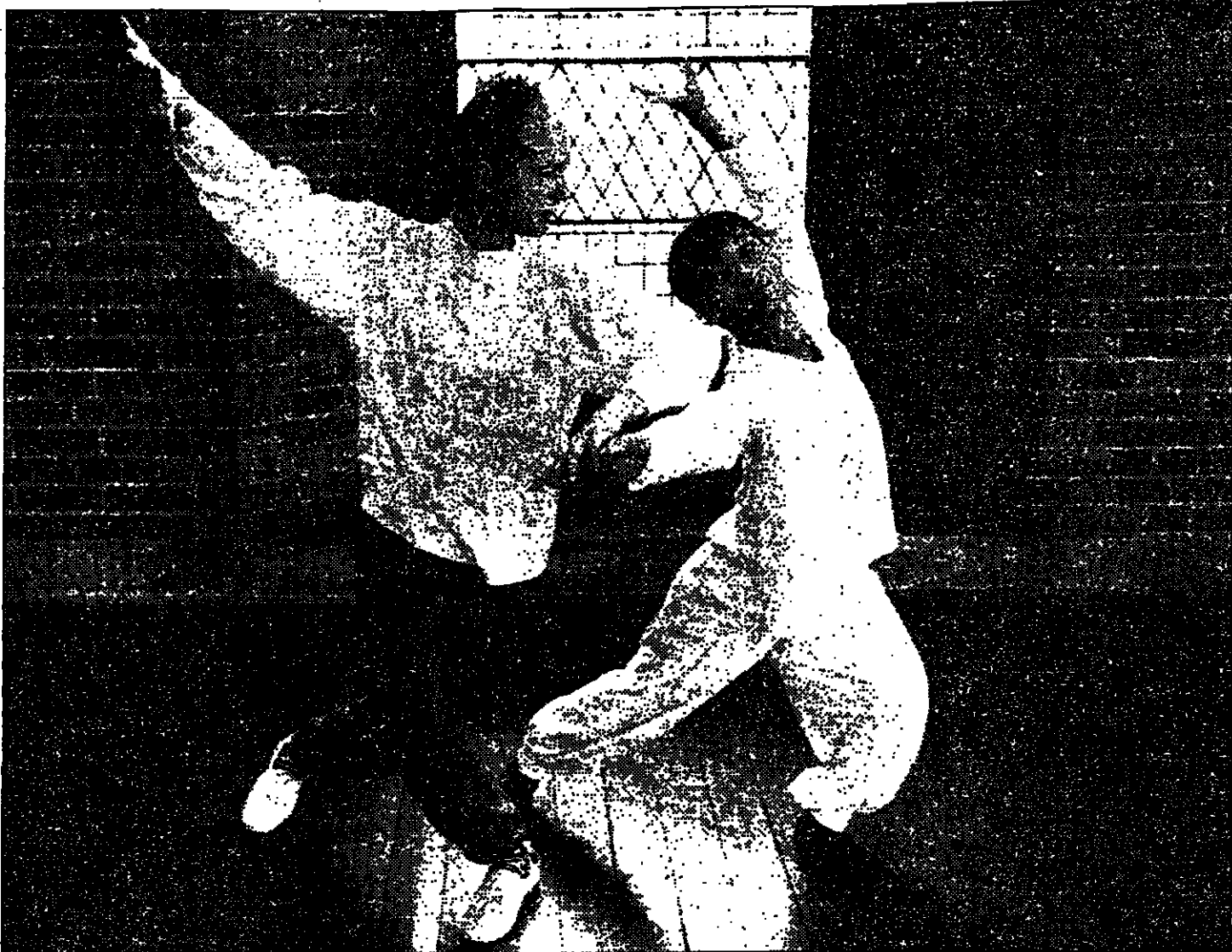
Professor William Keatinge, a London University expert on climate and disease, warns in the



magazine *Medical Monitor* that rather than dramatic treatment such as adrenaline injections and cardiac massage, the patient with hypothermia needs immediate covering with blankets or greatcoats, and movement to a warm environment as soon as possible.

Relax and watch your troubles float away

JULIAN HENBERT



Dancing their cares away: Lydia Wong and Anthony Kennedy believe they can eliminate stress through a type of exercise called qi-necks

Time to unwind: but first, choose your "relaxation strategy". Victoria McKee reports on the business of unbending

For the next week or so you will be told how to lose 7lb in five days, squeeze into that slinky New Year's Eve ensemble, and radically reshape yourself and your life. You might be better off to relax and reach for another mince pie.

Expectation and frustration are inextricably linked, and it could be better just to accept that this is the season of excess," says Dr Desmond Kelly, the medical director of the Priory hospital in south London, and president of the International Stress Management Association.

"With so much hype over Christmas and then over diet and exercise and new year's resolutions it is easy to try to do too much too soon — and then feel terribly let down," Dr Kelly says. "Some people produce endorphins when they exercise which make them feel good, but for others, who feel bad when they exercise, it is a waste of time."

Both types, he suggests, would be better sorting out "relaxation strategies which can be woven into their lifestyle" than putting their new tracksuit through its paces before the pudding has been digested. And some experts believe that simply by learning to relax, whatever else you desire — be it weight loss or a psychological re-shaping — will follow.

Yet there are almost as many confusing "relaxation strategies" as there are diets and exercise programmes, and the relaxation business is in danger of becoming as stressfully competitive as any other. You could float in a flotation tank, take up juggling and learn several different types of meditation and visualisation, just for starters. And there are innumerable audio and video cassettes by self-styled specialists in what is a growing, and lucrative, field.

"It could be better just to accept that this is the season of excess"

Anthony Baird, the director of the Institute for Complementary Medicine (ICM), recommends a similar, simple routine. "I do it every morning before catching my train. I sit in a chair, very straight, and count down from 20 to zero and imagine I'm sinking down into a huge bottle. I let my thoughts float for a few moments. And when I'm ready I come back up feeling hugely refreshed and ready to cope."

Almost every form of "alternative" therapy places a high emphasis on relaxation. "For short-term relaxation we'd prob-

ably suggest aromatherapy, massage, meditation and reflexology," Mr Baird says. "For the longer term these would need to be combined with some sort of counselling."

One aromatherapist on the ICM's list of practitioners is Trish Hooker, a former personnel manager who turned to aromatherapy because of the stress of her job, and who has worked with it in a London hospice.

She believes that aromatherapy can not only cleanse the system of toxic wastes from over-eating and drinking at Christmas, but that it may also help people emotionally. "Every sense is gratified, which is very important," she says. "Some people leave me feeling energetic enough to go home and start spring cleaning. Others may go home and want to sleep for eight hours. What the body needs it gets."

A two-and-a-half hour session (an hour's initial consultation followed by an hour and a half's treatment) costs £40. Howard Gaier, a "naturopath" who also practises osteopathy and is a registered homeopath, recommends "infusions of relaxant herbs such as lemon balm, limeflowers, lavender, vervain or American ginseng. Valerian and passionflower are the stronger ones."

"If you don't feel you can give up tea but would like to cut out the caffeine and tannin, try Red Bush

tea which contains quercetin, and gives it more of a 'buzz'. Unfortunately there isn't really a substitute for coffee."

Those who prefer a more active method of relaxation — and there are many who do — may like the idea of learning to "dance" with their stress. Lydia Wong and her partner Anthony Kennedy believe the answer is not to eliminate stress from your life but to learn to "dance" with it, through what they call qi-necks, a mixture of tai-chi, calisthenics and meditation.

Mrs Wong claims that the technique — which she teaches at the Church of the Holy Innocents in Hammersmith, west London, for £5 a session — helps prevent "overweight and over-tiredness, premature ageing and loss of vitality" — and has a leaflet which sets out some of the basic qi-neck exercises, which are done "aerobically, meditatively and then in a 'hard' way to build up muscles and create dynamic tension."

Or you could consider juggling away your tension. Max and Susi Oddball of the Oddball Juggling Company have taught bankers and doctors, opera singers and motorcycle couriers how to toss their troubles into the air. "You have to relax in order to juggle," they explain, "as the mind is forced to concentrate on a new experience."

A British Association for Autogenic Training and Therapy, 101 Harley St, London W1N 1DF, send for more information. Institute for Complementary Medicine, 21 Portland Place, London W1N 3AF (071-636 9543), send for information on practitioners in all fields. Trish Hooker, 071-624 2220. Howard Gaier, 0730 63137, or c/o Nature Works, 16 Balderton St, London W1 (071-355 4036). Lydia Wong, send £3 and £4 s.a.e. for leaflet to 3 Heathfield Rd, Acton, London W3 (081-912 3783). The Oddball Juggling Company, 56 Ilington Park St, London N1 1PX (071-354 5660).

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BREATHING SPACE Dame Vera Lynn

Battling through

AS A child I was fond of salads and ate little meat, and never liked cheese or eggs very much. I have to watch my weight, and avoiding anything rich helps because I am on a low-fat diet.

Breakfast varies: I might have cereal with skimmed milk, sometimes half a grapefruit, two slices of stoneground or wholemeal bread and preserves. Twice a week I have tomatoes on toast. I drink Earl Grey at breakfast and tea time. I do my own cooking; I don't buy anything prepared.

I use a lot of spices and herbs in my cooking. Take garlic tablets every day and put it in all your cooking. It helps to clean the system and prevent infections.

When I do vegetables I steam or cook them with little water. For dinner I might steam chicken or fish with lemon juice or ginger. I might roll it in a packet with a little onion and poach it in water. I am not a great drinker: the odd glass of champagne or red wine with a meal, but that's it.

I take vitamins B and C and a couple of kelp tablets every day, and I've a cupboard full of homeopathic medicine, which is good for upset tummies and bruises, knocks, cuts and aches. I had acupuncture some years ago because I used to suffer really badly with migraine and I found that it helped a great deal. If you can keep off strong drugs you're much better for it.

I garden a lot, and I have an exercise bike, and in summer I swim a lot. In the bathroom, I might do a few exercises.

We have quite a hectic lifestyle. There's always a television interview or concert to do, so we rarely have more than one or two days a week to call our own.

I never practice singing, never have done. Whenever I sing, the rehearsal with the band or the sound check is the practice.

If I'm not out working late we go to bed at a reasonable time.

If I'm busy in the morning and I've something to do in the evening I'll have a rest in the afternoon. There's always a bit of stress. Even if you're not on the stage singing, you're mixing with a lot of people. It keeps you busy, coping with people.

If I've been out all day and have to go out at night one of my favourite things is to have a hot bath and listen to the radio. Or if I've a spare afternoon I go to my room and do some painting.

When the publishers asked me to do a book on *Unsung Heroines* I stipulated that I wanted women from the Continent to be included. Going to places such as The Netherlands, Denmark and Norway, I've learnt how the Resistance and escape societies worked, because I've been involved in their fund-raising. The women's stories are fascinating.

Interview by Pamela Nowicka

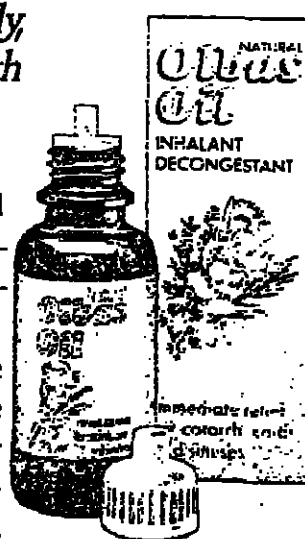
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DANCE

New turn to an old favourite

HERE is another competitor for the apparently inexhaustible Christmas ballet audience. Where else to take the family when the pantomimes are thin on the ground?

English National Ballet's Festival Hall Nutcracker is the one with some of the music omitted but other pieces of Tchaikovsky uncomfortably spatchcocked in, to fit a revised story that awkwardly tries to identify most of the characters with the composer and his family. Luckily, that aspect is easily ignored when there is a performance of Tchaikovsky/Drosselmeyer as sinfully inspired as James Superville's on Saturday.

This is the first that London has seen of the company since Ivan Nagy took charge, artistic director with a revised staff and a company substantially changed at its upper levels. His strongest card is the presence of Yelena Pankova as guest dancer, although other roles should make more of her gift for characterising classical roles.

Her phrasing of the Sugar Plum Fairy's solo could do with some help from Alicia Markova, who first staged it for Peter Schaufuss's production, and Pankova broadens some steps which would benefit from more delicacy. She may well gain from her time here as much as the company.

Her partner was one of the new recruits, Jose Manuel Carreno, from Cuba, making his debut early because of a colleague's illness. He gave sure support, although not quite tall enough for her. He is handsome and subtle with an attractive personality and a sound technique (especially showy piroettes), although his landings were bumpy.

The only other outstanding performances were the vigorous Russian *trepak* (no better danced than in the Covent Garden production, but much more stirring) presented by Alexander Grant's comedy turn as master of ceremonies for the Divertissement. Judgement of the company as a whole under its new command had better be suspended, although the farcical playing of the battle with the mice, especially Seth Gilbert's, gibbering Mouse King, is an alarming symptom.

JOHN PERCIVAL

GALLERIES

Happy marriage of form and content

André Kertész's photography and two centenary shows for David Bomberg, reviewed by John Russell Taylor

At the end of a year which has re-affirmed the continuing usefulness and feasibility of mammoth international touring shows, it is fitting to salute yet another. True, André Kertész: Diary of Light, 1912-1985 at the Barbican Concourse Gallery is not in any apparent way comparable with the recent blockbusters devoted to Van Gogh, Monet, Hals, Velázquez and such. It is "only" about a photographer, taking up much less space, involving less expense to tour and insure, and qualifying merely for a free-entry presentation in one of the Barbican Centre's leftover spaces. But it has been organised by the International Center of Photography in New York, it is in the midst of an extensive international tour, and in overall artistic quality it need fear no comparison.

Among the thousands of exhibited photographers there are still relatively few who can be accepted without question as artists. André Kertész is one of that select band. He was born Hungarian in 1894 (curious that so many distinguished photographers have been of Hungarian origin), and went to Paris in 1925 and New York in 1936. Photographic historians of a psychological bent have perceived in his American work an exile syndrome of progressive withdrawal: why else, the hypothesis goes, are so many of his most famous photographs taken from a high angle, like views from an ivory tower?

One thing that this comprehensive show, covering his whole lengthy career, demonstrates is that there is a surprising consistency in his three main periods. He was, from the outset, fascinated by the geometry of a scene. Perhaps some of his most striking pictures do look rather distant from street-level human concerns. But this was only one side of his interests. There are many wonderfully warm and interested depictions of people, right from early pictures, such as "An Affectionate Touch", in which a peasant walking across a field with his wife or girlfriend casually and unself-

consciously touches her protectively on the thigh, to the last.

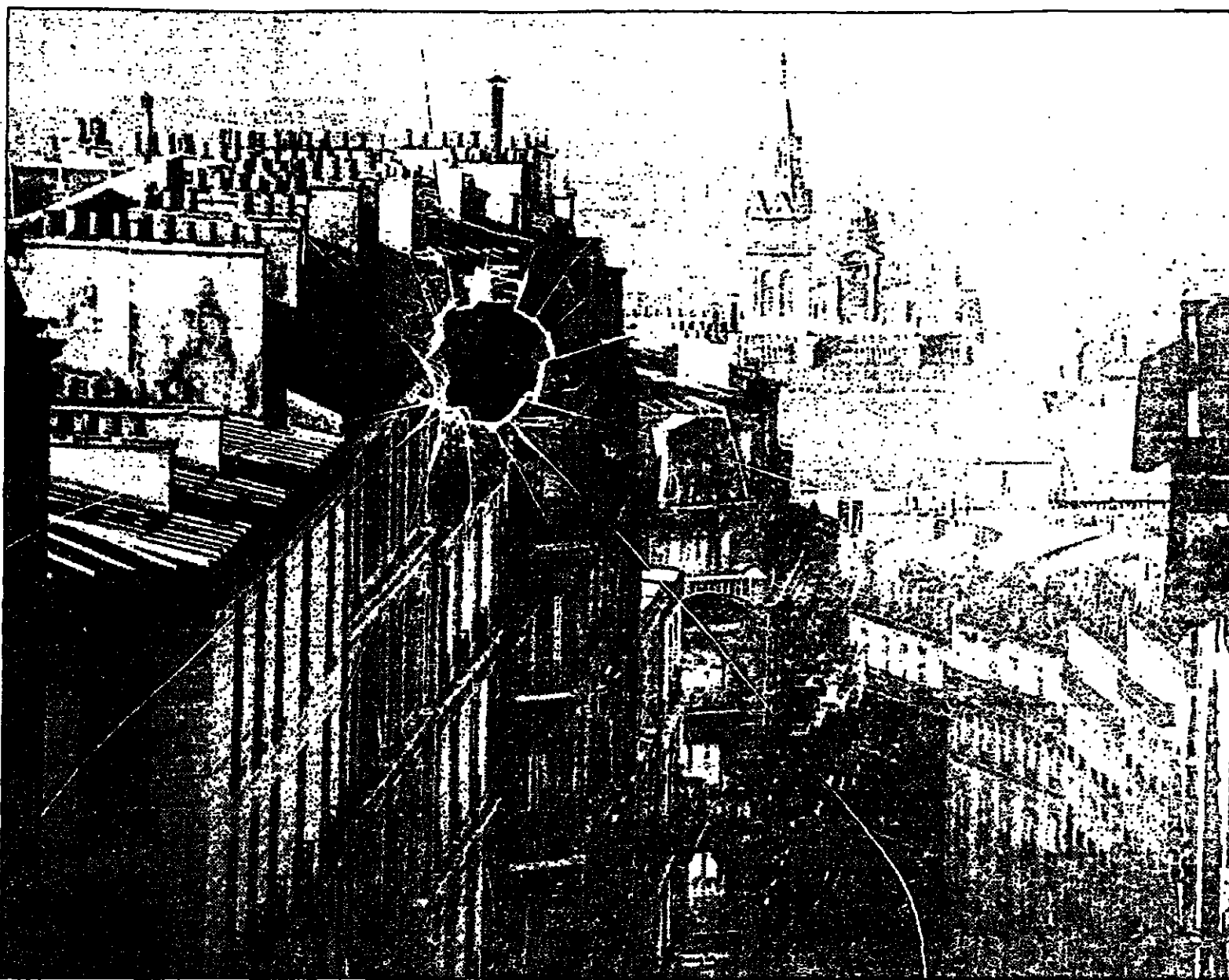
But however great the human interest, it is never allowed to obliterate the abiding concern with form. The peculiar strength of Kertész is that form and content go so inseparably hand-in-hand. He has an amazingly vivid sense of Cézanne's "Oh, the one Life, within us and abroad... so that such objects as chairs deserted in the winter park take on almost as much personality as their sometime occupants, or Mondrian's pipe and spectacles on a table evoke irresistibly the man who just left them there.

He is wonderfully appreciative of animal eccentricity, which is always a good sign. And his surrealist experiments with distortion nearly always begin with the humanity of the original subject, and never lose touch with that.

Who else but Kertész would have looked twice at a broken glass negative of Paris rooftops and seen that if printed just as it was it would give a very powerful image of disruption, as though taken through a window shattered by a bullet. Perhaps more than any other 20th-century photographer, Kertész could say "I am a camera." Everything that his eyes took in was immediately material for a picture, and yet the critical faculty was always working: nothing here is facile.

The major centenary of the year - it has been impossible to forget it - was that of Van Gogh's death. It was also the centenary of Egon Schiele's birth, and possibly (no one knows for certain) the 500th anniversary of Titian's birth. By comparison with these, David Bomberg, born in 1890, is a parochial figure: though he has been increasingly accepted recently as one of the towering figures in British art, the reputation awaits international consecration. His centenary has not been marked by even a minor museum show.

There are, however, two shows in commercial galleries. The emphasis in both is on Bomberg as a landscape artist.



A broken negative, giving a powerful image of disruption: "Paris, 1929" by André Kertész, from the show at the Barbican Concourse Gallery

The oils at Bernard Jacobson are all landscapes, attesting to his interest in the form almost throughout his career. The strongest work is in the middle: in the wonderful paintings and drawings of Ronda, with its unforgettable gorge, from the Thirties and the Fifties, or the astounding drawings of war-torn London after the blitz. Here the emotion informs the realistic observation without overwhelming it. On either side there is danger: the Palestine paintings of the early Twenties seem too like set tasks, and some of the later paintings are so dominated by the painter's turbulent feelings

that they lose coherence.

Difficult man as he no doubt was, Bomberg deserved more consistent notice during his lifetime. If he had received that, his career would probably not have seen-sawed so wildly.

The impression received from the show of works on paper at Gillian Jason is of someone who, if things had fallen out slightly differently, might have made a commanding figure of the establishment. He could do so many things well: not only the memorable landscapes, but the sketches connected with his main works of the first

world war and the early pictures of the Yiddish theatre, where he shows an enviable facility for turning people into patterns without dehumanising them.

Bomberg did all sorts of things with apparent lack of self-consciousness. Michael Ayrton, a much younger artist with attitudes shaped by the second world war rather than the first, seems to have set out quite deliberately to deserve the title of "renaissance man". Painter, print-maker, illustrator, theatre designer, sculptor, novelist, critic: he was all these things, and to a degree did all of them well.

The sculptures, obsessed with his favourite themes such as the maze, the *doppelgänger* and Icarus, are adept but somehow synthetic, and some of the paintings, especially later on, hardly steer clear of kitsch. But the earlier, Neo-Romantic paintings are sometimes magical, and throughout his career he remained a master of line.

If he had remained happy to be a fine illustrator and brilliant stage designer there would be virtually nothing to say against him. But like his own Icarus, he was fated to fly too near the sun. Knowing one's own capacities and stick-

ing to them is usually better for the artist.

André Kertész: Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-588 9023) daily 12-7.30, until Jan 23.

David Bomberg: Landscapes, Bernard Jacobson, 14a Clifford Street, W1 (071-495 8575) Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-1, Jan 2-Jan 19.

David Bomberg: Works on Paper, Gillian Jason, 42 Inverness Street, NW1 (071-267 4835) Tues-Sat 10.30-6, Jan 2-Jan 11.

Michael Ayrton: Austin/Desmond Fine Art, 13a Bloomsbury Square, WC1 (071-242 4443) Mon-Fri 10.30-6.30, Sat 10.30-2.30, Jan 2-Jan 19.

THEATRE

Tie that binds art to real life

Theatre-in-education still has a role to play in schools, argues Joseph Williams

Berlin, 1933. Trude has betrayed her Jewish lodger to the Nazis. Slowly, she looks up to face a concerned audience. A young voice suddenly calls out from the stalls: "How can you do it just because she's Jewish?" "I'm doing what I think is right for my country," she answers defiantly.

Trude is a character in a play. The performance is over, but the actress playing her is still in character. She is being interrogated by a fourth-year schoolboy from a Greenwich comprehensive. This is Theatre-in-Education (or TIE) in action: a mixture of learning, role-playing, and discussion. After watching this workshop production of *The Great Illusion*, a specially devised play by John Wood and Greenwich YPT (Young People's Theatre), the pupils talk about the issues raised.

But TIE is now an issue itself. Some repertory theatres are axing their own YPT companies in order to keep the main theatres open. Greenwich YPT lies in limbo this Christmas, awaiting a £60,000 slash to its basic funding from Greenwich Borough Council, threatening the company's future, into doubt.

Carole Lytboe, playing Trude in the production, articulates one main argument for drama education: "Teachers are amazed when a pupil speaks up in class for the first time. The theatre taps children in areas that academic subjects cannot always reach."

Many of the pupils from Thomas Tallis mixed comprehensive who watched the production had never entered a theatre before. The play examines how lives were shattered by Nazism: its themes of racism and betrayal are brought up-to-date through bitter-sweet cabaret songs. This is not exactly light-hearted fare for 15-year-olds, but the audience never loses their sense of fun. The actors fling moral dilemmas at the young audience: "Did Trude have a choice? Could she have changed her mind?" Later at school, teachers use a hefty educational pack provided by the company to stimulate a historical discussion.

"Young people have a right to as broad an education as possible," argues Chris Vine, director of Greenwich YPT. "Teachers tell us that our work is a springboard for another six weeks of edu-

cation." Greenwich council has been charge-capped, and cutting drama education is regarded as a convenient way of saving money.

Next April will see a tidal wave of closures of young people's theatre," says Steve Nolan, a member of Coventry's Belgrade TIE company. The latest casualty is York's YPT, which has folded after its parent company - Theatre Royal, York - reluctantly embarked on a cost-cutting exercise. "Theatre Royal was £250,000 in deficit," says YPT director Anthony Ravenhall, who is now trying to fund an independent YPT in York. "Their reaction was to axe our company."

To many in children's theatre, the 1988 Education Reform Act has been the big bad wolf, because it prevented schools from charging parents for productions in school hours. Voluntary parental contributions had to be sought instead.

"That may mean poorer inner-city and rural schools will not be able to afford theatre, simply because the parents cannot pay," says Siân Ede, drama education officer at the Arts Council.

However, drama education raises some thorny questions about itself. Should it be part of the National Curriculum, as is music and art? Or is a traditional and purely academic discipline more likely to maintain standards? After all, the concept of TIE did not even exist before 1960, and not all companies today can provide high quality material. TIE managements have been known to exploit actors to accept less than subsistence wages; others try to peddle second-rate or even dubious material to schools.

The Department of Education appreciates the value of drama "within the English curriculum", and believes it is up to the Arts Council to administer funding in specific cases. But is that realistic? There is dismay in some circles that the Royal Shakespeare Company should be bailed out by the Arts Council, while regional repertory and TIE companies are not.



Eren Zekioglu and Rachel Bennett of the Greenwich Young People's Theatre during *The Great Illusion*

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Leading article, page 11

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CHANNEL 4

The Art of Landscape. Natural scenery and soothing music
Business Daily 6.30 The Channel Four Daily
Episode four
The Adventures of Mr. Titt. Episode one of an animated adventure
 series. To Come. What was the future held? Malcolm Bennett
 and Penny Southgate pose some of the questions and sometimes
 have the answers in this innovative series about our visions of
 tomorrow (r)
Tommy Jackson's Pro-Celebrity Golf Challenge. Round two from La
 Tourette, France. Guests are rugby union's Gavin Hastings and
 Peter Alliss, the golf commentator
Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park. Live coverage of the
 12.45, 1.15, 1.45, 2.20 and 2.50 races
The Outlier. Anecdotal advice about not smoking
Film: The Old Fashioned Way (1934, b/w). The W.C. Fields
 season continues with a comedy bout around their star about the
 great McGongle and his troupe of travelling players. Directed by
 William Beaudine
Faerie Tale Theatre: The Boy Who Left Home To Find Out
about the Shivers. A Transylvanian tale, appropriately starring
 Christopher Lee, about a man who has never experienced fear.
 Cast out by his paranoid father, Marlin (Peter MacNichol) is
 challenged to stay in a haunted castle for three nights and if return
 he will receive a kingdom and a beautiful princess (Diana Hill). Also
 starring David Warner and Frank Zappa (Teletext)
The Further Adventures of Billy the Fish
Race. Animation about the inhabitants of Raci (r)
Celebrity Fifteen-to-One presented by William G. Stewart
Channel 4 News with Nicholas Owen and Zennab Badawi. (Oracle)
Comment followed by Weather
Roseanne. Dan's super-salesman father comes to visit and
 Roseanne is forced into the role of peacekeeper (r)
Dearest: Friends, Romans, Accountants. Hugely successful
 American sitcom from the same team who made *Tia* (r)
Just Like Liza.
CHOICE. Paul Madden's lovely tribute to Tommy Cooper was
 first shown last Christmas and it was repeated for the next ten
 years. Channel 4 would hardly be swamped with
 complaints. With material stretching way back into the Fifties,
 Madden could easily have filled the hour with Cooper clips and left
 it at that. But even a comic who communicated as directly and
 spontaneously as Cooper is worth a comment or two. The writer
 did Green points out that the essence of Cooper's act was to look
 as if he has been pushed out to the side and did not know what
 was happening next. The huge, clumsy frame and the manic
 huskiness did the rest. His humour was anarchic and timeless, which
 is why, in this film, younger performers such as Lenny Henry and
 Andran Edmondson can happily claim affinity with him. He was a
 true original and as they used to say about Max Miller whose
 portrait hung in Cooper's living room, there will never be another



An unlimited Jewish sense of humour: Jackie Mason (10.00pm)

An Audience with Jackie Mason.

CHOICE: The American comedian rubs his Jewish humour off an audience of celebrities including Bruce Forsyth, Michael Winner and Barry Humphries. Some of the questions lobbed at him are silly and Mason is not slow to say so. Inevitably is a strong element in his act but his man asset is being able to talk at about 100 words a minute on almost any subject and never lose his head. Jewish comics have the built-in advantage of a cultural background that is different enough from most other people's to make the almost unlimited supply of them-up jokes. Mason mines the vein as effectively as anyone, helped by an engaging self-mockery and a vast store of knowledge which even, when prompted by Ken Livingstone, extends to the intricacies of the British poll tax. Mason can be serious as well, but serious is never his name as dull.

Robin Williams: An Evening at the Met. Manic humour with the powerful comedian who lets loose on a range of subjects from politics to parenthood at New York's Metropolitan Opera House (7.00pm)

Chinese Ghost Stories: Close Encounters of the Spooky Kind (9.00pm). A Far Eastern action-fantasy directed by Sammo Hung. (With English subtitles) Ends at 2.00am


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 American Gameshow 2:10 Divorce
 3:40 Remington Steele 3:30 Lifestyles
 Telenovela 4:35 Great American
 Tea 5:20 Tea Break 5:30 WKRP in
 6:00 The Safe-Haven Shopping
 Channel 10:00 JSTV 11:00 The Safe-Vision
 Channel 12:00 Satellite Auction

MOVIE CHANNEL.
Marzo Polo satellite.
 Los Angeles satellite counter
 for the winners of a lottery
 Movie Show
 The Hate for Liss: An Italian film star
 already has a penchant for her
 life the River Run Slack: A jungle
 raised by freshwater dolphins

8:10 Intimate Husband: A wife discovers
 that her husband is not all she seems to
 be
 8:40 Retch Lines: Journalist Chevy Chase
 becomes entangled in a murder mystery
 10:00 'Night Mother: Drama about a
 suicidal daughter
 11:45 Kidnapped: A woman goes far forest
 with an expert to rescue her sister who was
 been kidnapped by child pornographers
 1:35pm Appointment with Death: An
 Agatha Christie whodunit. Ends at 3:35

THE SPORTS CHANNEL
 • Via the Marco Polo satellite.
 1:25pm Sportscenter 1:30 Racing 2:00
 Scottish Football 4:00 Celebrity Tennis 5:00
 NFL Review 1990 6:00 Sportscenter 8:30
 American Wrestling 7:30 Sportscenter 8:30
 The Man Event: World Heavyweight Boxing
 10:00 Sportscenter 12:00 Cr. Hysteria 11:30
 Racing 12:00 Sportscenter 12:30pm Soccer

THE POWER STATION
 • Via the Marco Polo satellite.
 7:00am Twenty-two hours of rock and pop



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Chilean judge 'convinced UK journalist was murdered'

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE Chilean judge examining the death of a British journalist in Santiago last March while investigating alleged illegal arms deals has reportedly recommended that the case be upgraded from sudden death to premeditated murder.

Tony Moyle, father of the journalist Jonathan Moyle, said from his home in Devon yesterday that a source in Chile had told him the judge, Alejandro Solis, was convinced his son had not only been murdered but that his death did not have a simple explanation. The body of Moyle, aged 28, editor of *Defence Helicopter World*, was found hanging by his shirt, with a pillowcase over his head, from the clothes rail in the closet of his Santiago hotel bedroom on 31 March.

Chilean officials initially said that he had committed suicide, but this theory was later rejected. The cramped closet was eight inches shorter than his body and

the door had been shut from the outside. A post-mortem examination found sedatives in Moyle's stomach which he had not been known to take.

Tony Moyle's solicitor in Chile is suing a Chilean arms producer, Industrias Cardoen, for alleged responsibility for the death. Moyle was investigating reports that Iraq had allegedly ordered 50 of the company's helicopters.

Mr Moyle also claims that the company had been making the Stonefish mine, a secret British weapon. British naval intelligence has interviewed him over these allegations.

Mr Moyle said that a man who wants to remain anonymous had accused a former employee of a company Jonathan Moyle was investigating of threatening him the night before his body was found. Mr Moyle added: "I even know the words he used, but I cannot say more about it because the situation is very delicate."

Mr Moyle said that if the judge's recommendation to upgrade the examination was accepted it would entitle him to cross-examine people under oath.

Although the Chilean government now supports the murder theory, Mr Moyle said the British embassy in Santiago was "coy" about saying Jonathan had been killed. He claimed this was because his son had discovered that a large British arms company, which he would not name, had broken various arms embargoes and had been doing business with Iraq and South Africa.

David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, said last night that he would be tabling questions for the foreign secretary on alleged Chilean arms sales to Iraq. "It is essential that the full truth is known about this murky business and that the British government should make the strongest possible representations to the Chilean authorities," he said.

Colin Simmons, the airfield co-ordinator for the shipping agents Garwick Handling, confirmed last night that all the aid destined for the Soviet Union had left on the Aeroflot flight on Tuesday. "The cargo is certainly not at Stansted any more, everything here went on that plane," he said.

Express Service, the Soviet freight forwarding company which volunteered to process the gifts, said the aircraft arrived fully loaded, apparently with a mixture of humanitarian and commercial cargo destined for Minsk, but the flight manifest made no mention of food for Moscow.



Jonathan Moyle: 'Threatened on eve of his body's discovery'



A workman clearing overgrown graves at Kensal Green, a first step in the huge renovation scheme planned by the owner and the friends of the cemetery

£1m plan to restore cemetery's romantic past

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND's first private cemetery, Kensal Green, is to be restored in a £1 million scheme to create a memorial park to rival Père-Lachaise in Paris. The newly-formed Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery have drawn up a landscape plan to restore two

chapels, one for Anglicans and the second for dissenters.

Paul Hoppen, London grants officer for English Heritage which is to help with the project, said: "It is an admirable ambition to return the cemetery to its romantic atmosphere in a sensible and controlled way." English Heritage will provide a grant but most of

the cash will be raised by the friends.

The owner of the cemetery, the General Cemetery Company, has already cleared many graves on the 75-acre site. Michael Nodes, company chairman, said: "We want to recreate the original ambience of the cemetery and we want the friends to take responsi-

bility for that." The cemetery built in 1833 as society's "alternative" resting place, was landscaped by Richard Forrest and the chapels were designed by John Griffiths. In 1842, a visitor wrote in *Ainsworth's Magazine*: "What an escape from the atmosphere of London burial places to the air of Kensal Green - from the choked

charnel-house to that verdant wide expanse, studded with tombs of infinite shapes, and stone-marked graves, covered with flowers of every brilliant dye."

The Duke of Sussex's burial at Kensal Green in 1843 set the seal on the cemetery's social status. He was joined by "members of more than two hundred of the first families in the kingdom", according to an old handbook.

Thackeray and Trollope are also buried at Kensal Green, along with three generations of the Brunel family; Babbage, the father of computers; Blondin the tight-rope walker; Wilkie Collins; Leigh Hunt; and many other prominent people.

Julian Litten of the Victoria and Albert Museum, secretary of the friends' advisory committee, said: "This cemetery is almost a landscape dictionary of national biography. It was never meant to be a place of death but a living memorial park for us to enjoy."

Although past its glory, in 1914 the cemetery was still sufficiently idyllic for G.K. Chesterton to write in his poem *The Rolling English Road*:

For there is good news yet
to hear,
and fine things to be seen
Before we go to paradise,
by way of Kensal Green.

Man in the news, page 7

Romania deports ex-king for 'cheap stunt'

From TIM JUDAH IN BUCHAREST

THE Romanian government yesterday publicly criticised former King Michael, aged 69, whom it deported in the early hours of the morning after he paid a brief and bizarre visit to his homeland. Bogdan Baltazar, a government spokesman, said: "He came like a thief, lying and physically forcing his way into the country... it was a cheap stunt."

Last night the main extra-parliamentary opposition group, the Civic Alliance, condemned the "abusive expulsion" and called on parliament to invite the king on an official visit to Romania.

King Michael, who was forced

to abdicate by the communists in December 1947, lives in exile in Switzerland. On the evening of Christmas day, he and his wife flew into Bucharest international airport on a private plane. Soon afterwards he left the airport under the impression that he had received a visa. However, just as he was about to be driven off, officials asked for the passports back, saying that they had to put extra stamps into them. An hour later, the government broadcast a communiqué saying that the king had entered the country illegally.

After leaving the airport, the king visited friends in Bucharest

and, after problems with a broken-down car, the royal party left for the monastery of Curtea De Arges, the site of a family tomb.

Some 62 miles out of the capital, the king was stopped at a road block. "It was like Nazi Germany," Princess Margarita, the king's eldest daughter, said in an interview yesterday. "There were soldiers with machineguns, Securitate, and men that I can only describe as yobs." She added that they were then escorted under guard to Bucharest's Otopeni airport.

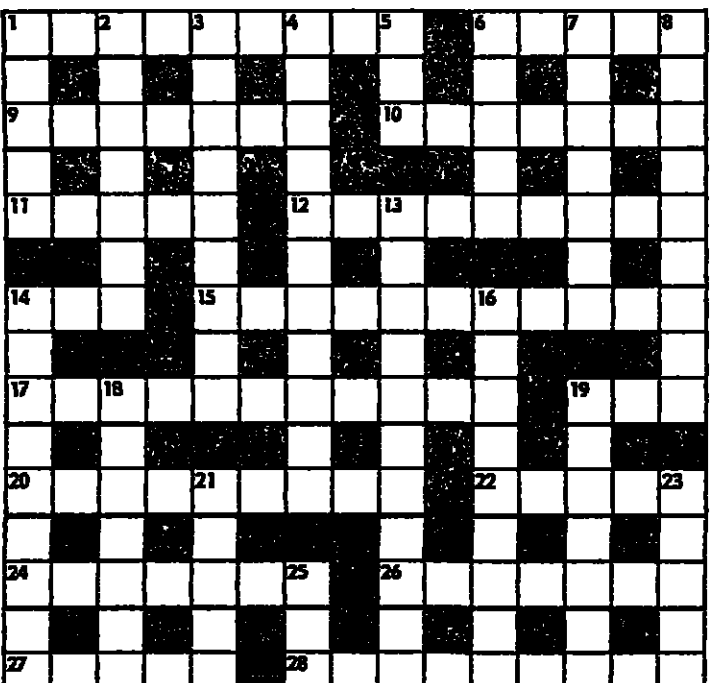
The royal party was flown in a military plane to Switzerland, less

than 12 hours after they had arrived. As he left, King Michael described his deportation as "a rather sorry state of affairs".

The government claims that he was expelled because he entered the country without a proper visa. Mr Baltazar said: "He came on a Danish diplomatic passport. Entry visas for these passports cannot be obtained at the airport." But Princess Margarita said: "That's nonsense. I'm here now on a Danish diplomatic passport and I've never had any trouble getting a visa at the airport."

Man in the news, page 7

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,487



- ACROSS**
- The servant standing behind the 1st Earl of Ypres is a foreigner (9).
 - Doctor and accountant drinking hot coffee (5).
 - It's said to guard part of a drill moving around (7).
 - After formation of army pop musicians (7).
 - The girl outside is of this fibre! (5).
 - Laziness causes no decline, oddly enough (9).
 - Might presently exclude border from violent action (3).
 - Police in terrible danger - one is thrown in lake (11).
 - Unsmiling Australian working in God's acre (3-6).
 - It introduces a large number down in the dumps (3).
 - Republican leader given donation out of the state (9).
 - Gather for a service (5).
 - Starts to offer lots of roses or

Solution to Puzzle No 18,486

1 Across: 10 Down: 11 Across: 12 Down: 13 Across: 14 Down: 15 Across: 16 Down: 17 Across: 18 Down: 19 Across: 20 Down: 21 Across: 22 Down: 23 Across: 24 Down: 25 Across: 26 Down: 27 Across: 28 Down: 29 Across: 30 Down: 31 Across: 32 Down: 33 Across: 34 Down: 35 Across: 36 Down: 37 Across: 38 Down: 39 Across: 40 Down: 41 Across: 42 Down: 43 Across: 44 Down: 45 Across: 46 Down: 47 Across: 48 Down: 49 Across: 50 Down: 51 Across: 52 Down: 53 Across: 54 Down: 55 Across: 56 Down: 57 Across: 58 Down: 59 Across: 60 Down: 61 Across: 62 Down: 63 Across: 64 Down: 65 Across: 66 Down: 67 Across: 68 Down: 69 Across: 70 Down: 71 Across: 72 Down: 73 Across: 74 Down: 75 Across: 76 Down: 77 Across: 78 Down: 79 Across: 80 Down: 81 Across: 82 Down: 83 Across: 84 Down: 85 Across: 86 Down: 87 Across: 88 Down: 89 Across: 90 Down: 91 Across: 92 Down: 93 Across: 94 Down: 95 Across: 96 Down: 97 Across: 98 Down: 99 Across: 100 Down: 101 Across: 102 Down: 103 Across: 104 Down: 105 Across: 106 Down: 107 Across: 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BUSINESS

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THURSDAY DECEMBER 27 1990

Auditors move to curb fudging accounts

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE accountancy profession is to set up a body designed to stop companies exploiting loopholes in accounting regulations to dress up their accounts. Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the new Financial Reporting Council, is expected to announce soon a division in the council, termed the emerging or urgent issues task force.

The move, one of the most significant by the FRC, is aimed at preventing companies starting accounting techniques off their own bat. The FRC is acting after controversies over brand valuation and off-balance-sheet financing, which spread in the absence of rulings by the authorities setting accounting standards.

Typically, one company may persuade its auditors on the basis of counsel's opinion to accept a creative new form of accounting. This is taken as a precedent by other companies and their auditors without the practice being approved officially.

The FRC wants to prevent ideas used by one company being taken as a precedent. The task force will operate under the FRC umbrella alongside the Accounting Standards Board and the review panel, which aims to monitor and enforce the use of correct standards in company accounts.

When a new accounting technique is used by a public company, it will be referred as soon as possible to the task force, which will give guidance to other companies. The aim is to indicate the FRC's approach to the new technique, pending full examination and acceptance or rejection.

Small firms want more investment

INVESTMENT is the key to economic recovery in the new year, according to Britain's 250 small business organisations represented by the National Chamber of Trade. The chamber has presented a series of ideas for the Chancellor's spring Budget. It believes inflation will fall by the middle of next year if investment is encouraged as follows:

- A tax-free investment reserve for development.
- Extension of development allowances to retail stores and service buildings.
- Raising the threshold for small firms' corporation tax.
- Extension of the Business Expansion Scheme to enable proprietors to invest in their own businesses.
- Switching education costs to central taxation to cut poll tax and business rate demands.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8750 (-0.0090)
German mark 2.8875 (+0.0021)
Exchange index 92.7 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1678.9 (-9.5)
FT-SE 100 2158.3 (-8.1)
New York Dow Jones 2635.64 (+14.35)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14%
3-month Interbank 13 1/4-13 3/4%
3-month mortgage bills 13 1/4-13 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 8.48-8.49%
30-year bonds 104 1/4-104 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £/\$ 1.8750
E: \$/£ 53.855
S: DM/£ 16.500
S: Sfr/£ 1.368
S: FF/£ 193.00
S: Yen/£ 136.00
S: Index 92.7
ECU £/£ 1.00
S: SDR/£ 1.00

GOLD

London: \$/oz 383.00-384.00
New York: \$/oz 383.00-384.00
Comex: \$/oz 383.00-384.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) \$/bbl 22.70
Denotes Monday's close
Denotes latest trading price

CBI urges Newton to abandon sick pay changes

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government should withdraw proposed legislation changing statutory sick pay arrangements, the Confederation of British Industry says today. Business leaders argue that the planned law will disrupt companies' operations and could, in the long term, add £1 billion to employers' annual costs.

CBI leaders, who claim that separate government measures could lead to the loss of up to £9 a week for three million people next year because of changes in sick pay rates, say that Tony Newton, the social security secretary, should withdraw the statutory sick pay bill before it reaches its committee stage in the House of Lords on January 14. Privately, some CBI leaders

believe the bill may be withdrawn, though publicly the government insisted yesterday that there was no prospect of such a move. Business leaders are angry that they were not consulted about the bill. They are also annoyed because they believe the bill was rushed through its Commons stages in a week, when public attention was focused on the contest for the leadership of the Conservative party.

Under the terms of the bill, which was introduced with the autumn statement last month, Mr Newton intends to change the system, under which employers can, if necessary, deduct 100 per cent of amounts paid out in statutory sick pay from their national insurance contributions and PAYE. The bill proposes to alter this rate to 80 per cent, though the government is to reduce employers' national insurance contribution rates so that any overall additional cost to employers resulting from the changes is substantially reduced.

In addition to the bill, the government is altering the threshold of the lower of the two levels of sick pay, which the government says will help protect the lower paid. The two changes will reduce public spending by about £280 million, and employers' national insurance contributions will be reduced by more than £200 million.

The CBI says that the changes will place a burden on employers, create uncertainty and delay moves by companies towards improving private, occupational sick pay schemes, since they will feel they are paying twice for sick pay while receiving only a reduced return from the statutory scheme.

Icahn anger as Pan Am shuns merger talks

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

TALKS over the \$370 million merger between Pan American Corporation and TWA, the rival airlines, looked on the brink of collapse last night amid a wave of allegations and bickering.

The dispute was prompted by the failure of Pan Am executives to attend Christmas Eve merger talks with TWA, followed by TWA learning from newspaper reports that Pan Am is poised to sell its Boston-New York-Washington commuter shuttle route.

Analysts say any permanent breakdown of discussions would mean that the new key to Pan Am's survival would be the sale of its London routes to United Airlines, in a deal worth \$400 million.

The \$150 million proceeds expected from the sale of the East Coast shuttle would serve only as petty cash to buy more time for the struggling airline while American and British regulators argue over whether they will approve an ownership change of the Heathrow routes.

In what Pan Am has described as a list of "rambling thoughts", Carl Icahn, TWA's chairman and chief executive, says Pan Am's decision to sell the shuttle without discussion "demonstrates your lack of good faith interest in negotiating the merger of our airlines."

Mr Icahn warns Thomas Plaskett, Pan Am's chairman:

"I urge you and your board to consider carefully your next step before you destroy the possibility of a Pan Am-TWA combination which might well be your airline's only hope."

Pan Am said last night: "The ball's in Mr Icahn's court. As far as we are concerned we are still talking but we are waiting for him to give us some firm proposals. We put the shuttle up for sale some months ago, I cannot see why this comes as a surprise to Mr Icahn. I cannot comment on reports it has been sold."

According to those close to the talks, Pan Am is thought to be ready to sell the shuttle to a combination of PacificCorp, the \$5 billion mining company based in Portland, Oregon, which will put up the money, and Northwest Airlines, the private debt-laden carrier that would run it.

Mr Icahn's letter continues: "You (Mr Plaskett) now appear ready to sell the shuttle and since you have not offered the shuttle to TWA for sale, I assume that entrenchment of existing management will be the principle purpose of the transaction rather than something that might ultimately benefit your shareholders, employees and creditors as well as the travelling public."

"If you genuinely believe that a sale of the shuttle is the right answer for Pan Am then why wouldn't you offer to TWA, as part of a merger, the right to compete for the shuttle on the same terms as another buyer?"

The letter discloses the two have been talking for almost 2 1/2 months. On October 18, TWA offered Pan Am between \$100 million and \$125 million in a bridging loan as a first step towards a merger.

Mr Icahn goes on: "After reading the article on today's (December 24) edition of The Wall Street Journal, I believe I now understand why today's meeting was cancelled. You (Mr Plaskett) appear to be continuing on the same path that you followed when you sold your London routes to United for a price that has now been clearly demonstrated to be less than fair market value."

"It appears that you will go to any extremes to avoid the merger with us that you say in your letter would be advantageous."

"We shall soon be landing in Miami, where we have received a very acceptable offer for the aircraft."



Boxing day blow: more signs than shoppers at a Texas Homecare store in Battersea, south London, yesterday

CMB expects profits fall

By MATTHEW BOND

PROFITS at CMB Packaging are likely to fall in the current year, according to Jean-Marie Descarpenteries, the company's president.

The company was formed in April 1989 by a merger of the Metalbox packaging business and the Carnaud company of France.

Under the terms of a deal, which was originally agreed in October 1988, Metalbox's packaging interests were sold to Carnaud for £780 million, with Metalbox retaining a 25.5 per cent interest in the enlarged group.

Both companies subsequently changed their names, with Metalbox becoming MB Group, and the enlarged Carnaud becoming CMB Packaging. However, merging the businesses has cost more than expected.

Net attributable profits are now expected to drop about 10 per cent, from £1.13 billion in 1989 to about £1 billion. "Our estimations today call for a result of the order of £1 billion for 1990," Mr Descarpenteries said.

On Christmas Eve, CMB's shares, which are listed in London, fell 25p to 950p. They had reached 900p at one stage.

M Descarpenteries attributed the expected decline in

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Storms take toll of sales

THE storms that swept Britain kept many would-be Boxing day shoppers at home.

Worst but were the do-it-yourself stores, which tend to start the sales season a day early. Given the choice between an afternoon in front of the television or braving a windswept bypass, home improvements lost out.

"It's kept us a lot quieter than last year," said the manager of a north London branch of B&Q, the Kingfisher subsidiary.

Nigel Whitaker, director of Kingfisher, said the company would not be able to quantify how sales had been affected until today.

Texas, B&Q, MFI and Magnet made over the last two years absolutely must pay," he said.

West Industries and A&G agree to merge

By OUR CITY STAFF

WEST Industries and Audit & General are to merge in an agreed takeover valuing Audit & General at £1.95 million.

The two companies are similar in structure, combining small industrial businesses with property-related activities. The latter had been the companies' main source of profits until the recent decline in the property market.

The £1.95 million price for A&G, agreed on Christmas Eve, compares with £8 million paid by Humberstone Electronic Controls for the company in a

reverse takeover two years ago. West Industries is offering a one for one share swap. Irrevocable acceptances by shareholders in A&G already total 58.4 per cent.

Full-year results for A&G, announced with the merger, confirm how difficult the property market has become. From last year's adjusted pre-tax profit of £1.3 million, A&G has tumbled to a pre-tax loss of £1.8 million. No final dividend is being paid (0.3p), although an interim dividend of 0.3p has already been paid.

Large salaries 'needed to retain talent and institutional memory'

Executive pay tops \$1m at bankrupt Drexel

By KURT EICHENWALD OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

SALARIES continue to collapse on Wall Street, but at Drexel Burnham Lambert, the former powerhouse that filed for bankruptcy protection this year, some people are still receiving more than \$1 million a year.

The firm now has a skeleton staff of 292. Of those, 29 are receiving more than \$250,000 a year each, with two traders receiving \$1.45 million a year each, according to internal documents obtained by The New York Times.

The documents detail Drexel's finances during October. People involved in the bankruptcy proceedings said there has not been any substantial change since then.

The total amount paid to Drexel's 73 officers - staff from the level of vice-president to the chief executive - this year will be \$21.1 million, according to the documents. The amount paid to the rest of the staff will be \$14.05 million.

Trust Corporation in a complaint against Drexel, said: "The money being spent to continue the Drexel operation, which would include but not be limited to the executive salaries, are unnecessarily depleting the estate."

"The assets ought to be preserved and distributed to the taxpayers represented by the FDIC with as little depletion as possible."

The payments have been reviewed by Frank Conard, the federal bankruptcy judge overseeing the case, as well as by executives on various creditor committees and the equity committee, which were established as a standard part of the bankruptcy proceedings.

The payments led representatives of some parties, as well as some former Drexel employees, to contend that assets were being wasted.

As part of the bankruptcy proceedings, Drexel agreed to have its compensation system reviewed by an outside consultant.

Drexel executives said they were in a difficult position when the firm filed for bankruptcy protection. If the firm

paid small salaries, it would be unable to retain a number of its most talented professionals. If it lost, those executives, the executives argued, the firm would have greater difficulty selling some of its most illiquid assets.

Drexel also needed these professionals, the executives said, as an "institutional memory" to help argue its case against the 9,000 civil claims filed against it.

The payments are not scaled according to title. John Sorte, who became chief executive this year, is being paid an annual \$750,000, according to the documents. Richard Wright, the chief financial officer, is paid \$650,000 and Frederick Joseph, the vice-chairman who was chief executive until recently, is paid \$450,000, the documents show.

As in Drexel's old days, some investment bankers and traders are paid more than their bosses. Robert Beyer and Mark Attanasio, both managing directors in capital markets, each receive \$1.45 million a year, the documents show.

Warren Trepp, who was head of the junk bond trading desk at Drexel, is

paid \$750,000. Some lawyers have called Drexel's effort to reorganize impossible, saying that its executives should accept that it is no longer a viable business.

Mr Boies said: "It is clear there is no realistic chance that Drexel is going to be reorganized."

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Classic silk squares	£25.00	£15.00
Cashmere & wool check scarves	£75.00	£25.00
FOR MEN		
Trench style weatherproofs	£375.00	£265.00
Classic style weatherproofs	£270.00	£195.00
Men's blouses	£185.00	£110.00
Shirts	£49.50	£29.50
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Why Leisure's wheel of fortune points to buyers

Next year, like this, is likely to be a buyer's market in the leisure industry. A raccourse? Yours for £20 million. A pub? Any number on the market. Swiss hotels? Two a penny. Even some London casinos may be bought for not much more than the now-absent high rollers - could at one time afford to lose in an evening.

All are part of the forced sale of leisure assets, a bring and buy that has turned into a vicious circle and left some of the big names in leisure with more time on their hands than they may have wished for.

	Sld	Offer	Chng	Yld	
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS					Md

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld	
Low Portl	271.61	75.38	+0.12	4 10	Japanese

Stress in leisure: Ragdale Hall, Leicestershire, the health farm once owned by LI

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld	
3	46.75	48.75	..	0.00	GT UNIT MGR

JAMES UNIT TRUST				
Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld	
MANAGERS				
Security	205			

INFORMATION				
	Offer	Cling	Yld	Std
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Chng	Yld	Bid	Offer
-0.3	5.14		

MIDLAND UNIT TRUSTS INC
 MIDLAND UNIT TRUSTS INC
 MIDLAND UNIT TRUSTS INC

Chng	Yld	Bld	Offer	Chng	Yld
Holt Gaty Inc	58.24	69.20e		6.10	

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[illegible][illegible]

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For an informal discussion please contact Charles Barnes, District Information Manager on 081 574 2444 Ext. 5094. Application forms and job descriptions available from the Unit Personnel Department, St Bernard's Wing, Ealing Hospital, Uxbridge Road, Southall Middlesex UB1 3EU. Tel. 081 574 2444 Ext. 5185.

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This post will be full-time. Salary and employment contract to be negotiated with successful applicant. Detailed job description available, on request, from the Treasurer, International Confederation of Midwives, 10 Barley Mow Passage, London W4 4PH. Telephone 081-894-6477. Interviews will be held on March 1st 1991.

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Fields of dreams which are being lost for ever

Britain's outdoor sporting heritage is under threat as some of the finest acres of playing fields are being sold by local authorities. John Goodbody finds that despite government attempts at protection through a national register of playing fields, the situation is worsening

With many local and education authorities disposing of assets — to avoid being charge-capped, they claim — the number of playing fields being sold for redevelopment is showing a drastic increase.

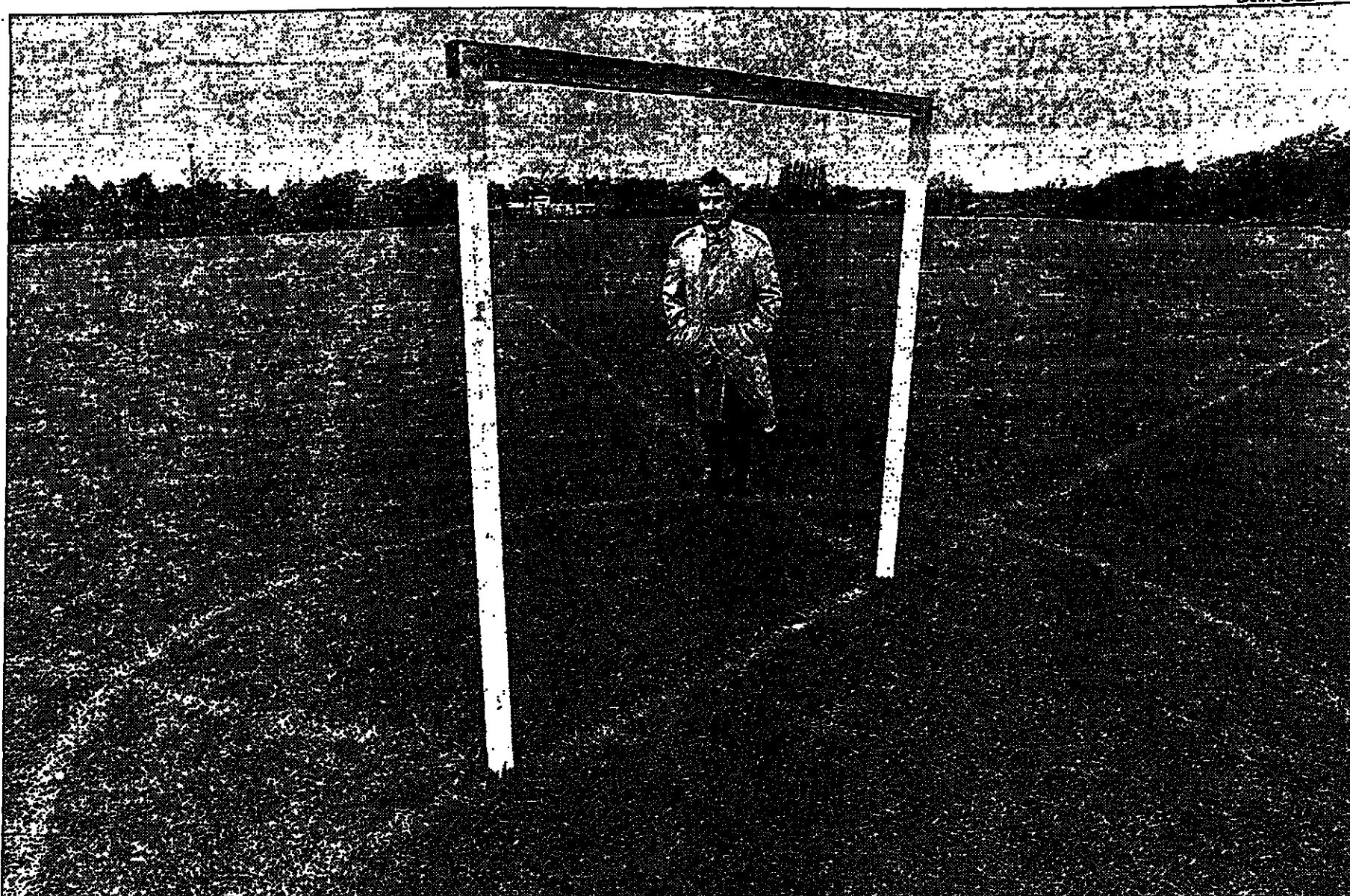
Only two months after the government emphasised the importance of retaining adequate open space in urban areas, the situation is actually deteriorating, with many sites already doomed and scores more under threat.

Don Earley, the fields administrator of the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA), said: "In the last fortnight I have become aware of possible sales in Essex, Surrey, Staffordshire, Kent, Nottinghamshire, Middlesex, Hertfordshire and Liverpool. This is not a new trend but recently it has become particularly bad."

Nigel Hook, senior technical officer of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), which represents the national governing bodies, agreed: "We are besieged now by sports clubs concerned with the loss of playing fields. Local authorities have received less money from central government for the rate support grant and they are having to sell off their holdings of land."

"This is a disastrous trend, particularly for a minister for sport committed to assisting young people. We hope that the government will act on its white paper, *The Common Interest*. However, in many cases, it is like closing the sports field gate after the bulldozer has already started work."

On October 16, Robert Atkins, the minister for sport, announced a planning policy guidance (PPG) note as a follow-up to the government's own white paper, published on September 25. In a written parliamentary answer, he said: "The government attaches



Waiting for the bulldozers: Sir Trevor Jones, a former leader of Liverpool Council, at the city's Jericho Lane playing fields which have been sold off for development

great importance to the retention of adequate recreational open space in urban areas. The planning system needs to ensure that adequate land is, and continues to be, allocated for organised sport and informal recreation.

"The draft PPG asks local planning authorities to ensure that their policies address local needs, protect valuable sites and identify suitable sites for new provision."

Yet in Liverpool, a city synonymous with football, nine outdoor facilities have been sold off since April 1989 and a further 14 are up for sale. Even in 1988, the city had only 1,114 acres of playing fields, 58 per cent of what the NPFA considered was the minimum it should have had for its size.

Sir Trevor Jones, a former Liberal Democrat leader of the council, said: "We have some of the finest acres for sport in the country but these are being sold off. According to the treasurer's report, the council has to sell £48 million of assets in the current year."

He points out that, before the 1980 Planning and Land Act, it was illegal to sell playing fields unless there was compensatory provision in the same area. However, this clause was deleted. "As a result, a Labour council has ruthlessly exploited Tory legislation," he said.

However, David Algar, the city council's assistant estates sur-

vveyor, pointed out: "Some of the playing fields are attached to schools and the director of recreation has assessed the need for them. This need has reduced over the years. The fields are not being used enough. So a rationalisation has taken place."

He said that the city had created over 1,000 acres of new open space, far more than it had disposed of. This consisted of a variety of terrain, including parks, although he accepted that only some of the new open space was playing fields.

In south London, King's College has sold a 13.5-acre site, including Dulwich Hamlet FC's ground, to Sainsbury's for a supermarket development at an

estimated cost of £25 million. Originally, Southwark council unanimously turned down the proposal, which was opposed by three local MPs, from different parties. However, new plans, which included funding for the community, were submitted. On July 30, the development committee, after being warned in the council minutes that Sainsbury's was likely to withdraw the benefits for the locality if the application went to appeal, approved the plan.

Dulwich Hamlet will be rehoused in a new stadium and Sainsbury's will also provide public open space, alongside the large car park servicing the supermarket. A spokesperson for J

Sainsbury plc, the company which won an award in 1989 as the greenest grocer of the year, said: "The need for a modern supermarket, an area of public open space and a new stadium and pitch for Dulwich Hamlet outweighs the need for private, under-utilised playing fields."

Members of King's College medical school will now play on Sainsbury's own pitches in south London, using facilities more convenient for them.

Yet, despite the practicality of the deal, the fact remains that more than eight acres of playing fields will be lost on an inner-city site.

difficulty in paying travelling expenses and keeping its grounds running, is seeking permission from the Charity Commissioners to sell the 3½-acre Archie Gordon playing field, only a mile from the city centre and used by local representative teams and Milford amateur rugby league club. The site would be redeveloped.

Councillor John Illingworth pointed out that even if other facilities could be used, this was of little benefit to children living in inner-city areas who did not want to, or were unable to, travel far from the vicinity of their homes.

In Kingston, Surrey, where the royal borough has to raise £100 million over the next four years, 14 sites, either owned by the education committee or land in which the committee has an interest, are under threat. Campaigners say half of them are used for recreational purposes.

However, Paul Clokie, the Conservative leader of the council, insists that only one playing field site is affected and that the council has, in fact, bought an island on the Thames and 110 acres for sports facilities. Public meetings and protests are just beginning.

Gyles Brandreth, the NPFA chairman, said that the issue was becoming more prominent because people were more determined to make their views heard. He welcomed the government decision, made two months ago, to have a national register of playing fields and the pledge from the Minister for Sport that it would be kept up to date.

Although many local authorities say that school playing fields are under threat, this is largely because of the decline in the population of school age in the 1980s. Official forecasts are for the number of schoolchildren to rise by 800,000 over the next ten years. But playing fields lost to developers in 1991, are unlikely to be recovered in 2000.

Brandreth also cited the correlation between unsocial behaviour and the lack of good sports facilities. "This is a quality of life issue. Do away with good facilities and you increase the social cost." He said that of the 300 children killed on the roads each year, the majority were playing on the streets.

He said: "It is an easy option to sell a playing field. But there is a cost human and social terms. It is a false economy."

SPORTS LETTERS

There is more to football than goals alone

From Mr Lionel Robinson
Sir, I question whether the Times leader writer ("Another game", December 14) appreciates the pleasure experienced by many players, spectators in the physical and psychological encounter between a vibrant attacking force and a well-organised defensive formation. It is not goals alone that attract, but the chess-like by all means, but it is no less pleasurable for that and preferable by far to the puntal, pop-football proposed.

This does not mean that one is not receptive to alterations to the laws of the game, but only if such changes facilitate enhancement of skills. Goals are the cherries on the cake but the thrill is in the individual and the blending of these skills to produce smooth, effective teamwork.

By all means let us experiment with a marginally larger goal — say 8 metres x 2½ metres, giving an area approx 1 per cent greater than the traditional 8 yards x 8 ft goal — yet encouraging less aerial work, lower trajectories and consequently more foot skills.

Yet again a law deterring backpassing to the goalkeeper would not only reduce time-wasting but would encourage players to develop skills to extricate themselves from exposed or difficult situations.

Change by all means if it helps produce a more open game — goals or no goals — but please don't let us succumb to the pressures of the media and commercialism for radical alterations to produce high scoring games.

The structure of the game should be preserved for the delight of future generations. Yours faithfully, LIONEL ROBINSON, 35 Belgrave Road, NW6.

From Rev. Courtney Atkins
Sir, Why on earth all this bother about bigger goals, more players

in a team, and so on, when the problem could be solved with a pot of paint?

The extension of a transverse line of each penalty area extended to the touchlines would create an area at each end of the pitch containing within itself the existing penalty area. (For brevity's sake let me call this the Aiken area.)

Offside: at the kick-off and at subsequent restarts from the centre spot (after half-time and after the scoring of a goal) both teams must be, as at present, wholly within their own half. Thereafter a player can only be offside in the opposing team's Aiken area. Result: first, a whole new playing area is opened up which is not subjected to the purely negative offside trap. One of the root causes of malaise in the game: second, more goals.

Passing back to the goalkeeper: only to be allowed from within the Aiken area. A player may not take the ball from outside to inside the Aiken area, and then pass it directly to the goalkeeper; if this is what he wants to do, it must include passing the ball via another player. Result: less deliberate time-wasting; another cause of malaise in the game: more opportunity for interception by an opposition no longer hamstrung by the offside trap; more goals.

Resolutions on defensive walls: another time-wasting ploy. As at present no player from the opposing team to be within ten yards (or whatever — why not 12 or 15?) of the place from which the free kick is to be taken, and no player from the offending side to be within the penalty area at the time that the free kick is taken. If this seems harsh, it would not only result in more goals, it might also dissuade undisciplined and unscrupulous players from committing "professional" fouls.

Yours faithfully, COURTNEY ATKINS, 2 Newlands Court, Ledbury, Herefordshire.

From Mr W. A. Metaxa
Sir, You support FIFA's idea of making football goals bigger because it would ensure that "The only life tactic would be to score, score and score again, as in rugby". But it is precisely this feature of football, the scarcity of goals, that gives the game its unique character.

In football it is perfectly possible for a clearly inferior team to beat a superior one. Upsets in rugby, American football and tennis, for example, occur when a team previously

regarded as inferior actually plays better than the team expected to dominate. These sports lack an element of unpredictability because the side which performs better will nearly always win. A rugby team camped in the opponent's 22 can rarely be but score, but in football a team can dominate a game and lose. An outclassed team can plan to defend stoutly, enjoy some luck and sneak a win. How else could the Faeroe Islands beat Austria? If the goals were enlarged, territorial dominance and possession would inevitably lead to goals. The better team would always win and football would be diminished as a sport.

A second, attractive feature of football would be lost with larger goals. Football is again unique in that a team that attacks is often paradoxically more likely to concede a goal. A team which falls behind will naturally push an extra man forward to achieve an equaliser. However, at the highest levels of the game, the chances of an equaliser much less than it increases the chances of the side in front scoring again. This is because a team is more likely to score with two forwards against three defenders than with six forwards against seven defenders, even if the ball is in its own half.

This breakaway style of play, used by Nottingham Forest, is so attractive because by definition it depends on speed and skill. It lures the opposition forward, secure in the knowledge that skilful defence can always shut out an attack. Bigger goals and easier scoring would eliminate this security and create a static game with massed attack facing massed defence. Other sports do not have the tactical subtlety of football. A losing team in rugby tries to attack, and in doing so successfully, in football, to commit the team to attack carries risks — this explains the excessive caution of teams in recent years.

In addition larger goals would elevate the importance of power shooting above the skills of passing, ball control and using the limited space which are the real joys of the game. They would also promote use of the tedious offside trap as it would be critical to keep opponents playing far away from goal.

The initiative for larger, and therefore, less exciting, football is the end product of the fundamental reasons for the game's appeal, its unpredictability and reward of basic ball skills. Do potential law-changers realise this?

Yours faithfully, W. A. METAXA, Flat 12, 25 Courtfield Road, SW7.

From Mr John O'Byrne
Sir, Has any thought been given to reducing the size of the ball? Yours etc, JOHN O'BYRNE, 2 Mount Argus Court, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6.

Grounds for rugby lawmakers

From Mr Christopher Lane
Sir, Although three replacements are now permitted in international and divisional rugby union matches, the substitutions can take place only in the event of injury confirmed by a doctor. The absurd possibility remains that if four players get injured, only three can be replaced.

In effect, therefore, the law says that you can have six reserves on the bench, and if the team suffers up to three injuries, then each injured player can be replaced. If a fourth man is injured, the law effectively inflicts the same punishment on the team as that of having a man sent off.

It is a crazy law which forces a side in such a predicament to finish the match with 14 players when there are still three fit and able men sitting on the sidelines. Fortunately, such an absurdity rarely occurs, but the law remains that in such a physical game, a team could easily suffer four injuries, and if they do, then they will be

unfairly and severely penalised. The law should be altered so that if there are six confirmed injuries, all six replacements will be allowed on the field.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER LANE, Flat 3, Bolney Court, Portsmouth Road, Surbiton, Surrey.

From Mr David Gullick
Sir, Rugby union's lawmakers should cut out one increasing cause of time-wasting. I refer to the habit of hookers, after the lineout has formed, walking infield, ball in hand, to take orders from the pack leader about the throw-in.

Surely "standing orders" could obviate some of this conferring. And, even with much crowd noise, visual signalling systems should cover the out-of-the-ordinary situation. For most games, or course, the spoken code should suffice.

Yours faithfully, DAVID GULLICK, 1 Heathrow Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Other changes

From Mr George Harris
Sir, Now that the football authorities are considering moving the goalposts might it not be the right time for other sports and pastimes to consider change?

Bridge players, for instance, might consider introducing a fourteenth card — a zero per-centage. Rugby league teams, who do not gather in such large numbers for their matches, might consider a further reduction in numbers to, say, 11.

In rugby union is quite terrifying to one who, 50 years ago, was enough to play as a prop forward at 11st. How about a 12st limit?

Ice hockey players clearly

need a larger puck, if only so that it can be seen on television. Golf presents an interesting situation. Do spectators want to see more punts holed out or fewer? If near-misses are the stuff of thrills then a smaller hole in the hole is called for, but if golf is to follow football and seek more goals then a bucket-sized hole with padded sides would offer the chance of putting in more often.

Finally, another foot of height on the net in tennis would surely introduce some nice wristy, spin serves, brightening the game for viewers as much as does the introduction of an Eddie Hemmings in Test cricket.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE HARRIS, 28 Cherry Tree Drive, Brixton, Plymouth, Devon.

Jockey Club should act

From Mr M. J. Campbell
Sir, John Goodbody (Comment, December 17) was right to draw attention to the harmful effects which athletes inflict upon themselves by over-training.

There is one brand of sportsman he did not mention and to which his comments especially apply, jockeys.

Besides indulging in tiring exercises, many of them have frequent sauna baths and exist on a near starvation diet in order to reduce their weights to the required level. In consequence the lives of many jockeys are a misery and the ill-effects of this lifestyle in later life can be very serious.

Over the years, human beings have become both taller and heavier and yet no increase in the weights allowance has been made for many years. The Jockey Club should take prompt action to rectify this position.

Yours faithfully, MALCOLM CAMPBELL, Parkfield, Lister Avenue, Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Owners' subsidy

From Mr J. B. Williamson
Sir, Only the bookmakers' lobby has suggested that owners are asking for a subsidy. It is the owners who are subsidising racing: without them there would be no racing.

Comparing the number of horses in training before the recession is another irrelevant exercise. Next year's figures will show a very different picture.

Owning a racehorse is a hobby, and when owners get a reasonable deal they will find a different home for their cash. It is not a question of subsidies. The betting tax creates a vast amount of money. The bookies, out of racing profits, have built up substantial commercial interests outside racing. What is now required is a prize-money.

Yours faithfully, J. B. WILLIAMSON, Summerhouse Stud, The Abbey, Rotherbridge, East Sussex.

Lengthening odds

From Mr Frank Stratton
Sir, I saw and enjoyed the recent Channel 4 programme *Dispatches*, detailing the methods used by the large bookmakers in their attempts to reflect a starting price in relation to money being wagered. Can we look forward to seeing a similar programme entitled, I suggest, *The Knockout*, showing the public how some other gentlemen attempt to lengthen the price of fabled horses, and so obtain a greatly inflated starting price.

Yours faithfully, F. STRATTON, 63 Camden Way, Hatfield Wood, Hertfordshire.

Room for big improvement

From Mr Tom Donnellan
Sir, I write from this hot and leafy part of New South Wales to ask whether it will not be possible next time to send over a better team of cricketers than the one at present touring this country.

I am one of those who have both British and Australian citizenship, so it should be a matter of great pleasure to me no matter who wins; but last year in England we saw it and this year it is the same. There is simply no contest — it is an embarrassment.

I have had to start carrying my Australian passport around with me to protect myself against the jeers of the ockers (an ocker is a sort of sustained booby-boy in an Akubra hat and a singlet). Truly, it is very hard to bear, having British nationality when a bunch of has-beens and no-hopers is making such a mess of a tour.

Australia has a population of some 17 million. Britain has a population three times as big. In theory, the pool of highly talented cricketers in Britain should be three times as big, and

the national Test side three times as hard to beat.

I suggest to the new (and cricketing) prime minister that he makes it a matter of national priority to produce a decent representative side. A new manager should be appointed (to be given a seat in the Cabinet, regardless) and paid by results only. Moreover, it should be made a part of the contract of the captain of England that he shaves daily.

TOM DONNELLAN, 6/19 Dick Street, Henley, New South Wales, Australia.

From Mr A. J. Nichols
Sir, May I suggest that whosoever the touring cricket team are next summer they be opposed in a one-day match (at Lord's?) by the Prime Minister's XI.

Could he captain the side and bat appropriately at Number 11 and remain not out?

Sincerely, ALEC NICHOLS, 838 Rosedale, Toccoa, Georgia, United States.

Unkind to skiers

From Mr N. J. F. B. Samengo-Turner
Sir, Brian James (December 7) was rather unfair to downhill skiers when comparing them in media terminology to the elite of other sports.

The skier's personal television coverage is some two minutes against the clock once or twice a week in the winter, and they are usually undeniably successful. Long may this situation continue.

Yours sincerely, S. V. STRAKER, Cromden Lodge, Manor Road, Reigate, Surrey.

Problem formula

From Mr N. J. F. B. Samengo-Turner
Sir, As a member of the family that introduced sponsorship to grand prix motor racing via our Yeoman credit and Bowmaker sponsored Cooper and Lola formula one cars of the late fifties and early sixties, I would like to take issue with Patrick Talack's comments (December 20) on the subject.

"Mental attitudes, not money, create success at sport. The combination of a sponsor, a television station, and a player seeking appearance money is an obvious formula for problems," Mr Talack says about the Open golf championship.

In the cold, clear light of day of the real world, lack of television sponsors and television coverage is a formula for the type of problems that will result in most sports disappearing overnight.

Yours faithfully, N. SAMENGO-TURNER, Coltsfoot Cottage, Wickhambrook, Newmarket, Suffolk.

Renascent species

From Mr Bunny Austin
Sir, The victory of Sampras in the Grand Slam Cup (report, December 17) was particularly worthy of praise.

Not only was his serving superb, but also his ground stroke. But most remarkable was the way he took his victory and the winning of \$2 million. He was throwing rackets and arms in the air, not falling on his knees. He simply walked up to the net to shake hands as if he had just finished a friendly practice game.

Surely a remarkable and certainly a refreshing young man, rediscovery of a species once thought to be extinct. May he lead the way into a new tennis era, when the game is still a game.

Yours faithfully, BUNNY AUSTIN, Orford House, Meadow Hill, Colindale, Surrey.

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Reid grasps his chance with both hands

HE is usually referred to as the Old Warhorse or the Old Grey Fox. With his grey hair and nearly 20 years experience behind him, anybody could be forgiven for thinking that Peter Reid is as old as Methuselah.

But at the age of 34 Reid finds himself playing as well as ever and loving every minute of it. Six weeks ago, he entered the minefield of management, taking over as player-manager of Manchester City. Management was always on his agenda but the timing of his move surprised everybody. One day, he was a player under Howard Kendall, the next, he was filling the boss's shoes.

"I thought I was going to play out my career under Howard," he said. "There was no way I'd managed out to be a player-manager but the opportunity arose and I tried to grasp it with both hands."

And grasp it he did. As soon as

The first division is a tough proving ground for someone trying to adjust to life between the board room and the dressing-room. Alex Ramsay meets Peter Reid, Manchester City's player-manager

he knew Kendall was going back to Everton, Reid announced he wanted the job. He made his position clear - he would take over as caretaker-manager for one game only, then the board would have to make a decision.

"The chairman knew me here as a player. If they wanted me as a manager they'd pick me after one game. I didn't want to hang about."

He feels that making his management debut in the first division is easier than starting out in the lower divisions. The more quality players at your disposal, the more chance you have of success and he is full of praise for the way his team has responded

since he took over. But there are still tough decisions to be made.

"The first one was leaving out Alan Harper and playing Ian Wright," he said. "That was difficult for me because Alan has been one of our most consistent players and I know him from our Everton days together. But I just felt it was the right thing to do. It's not the nicest job in the world but it's one that had to be done."

Although Reid is a man to make up his own mind, he is more than willing to take advice. "I'm not one who thinks he can do it all himself."

To make life simple, he has divided his week in two. On Thursday and Friday he tries to

put his feet up and prepare as a player for the match on Saturday. Match-day decisions on the bench come from the former Bury manager, Sam Ellis. When it comes to administration he takes counsel from the chairman, Peter Swales, and the secretary, Bernard Halford. "But in the end the decisions are mine," he said.

Reid has spent his working life as one of the team, one of the lads. He is an instantly likeable man with his thick Liverpool accent, a ready smile and a handshake like a mechanical grab. But now as player-manager he is caught somewhere between the boardroom and the dressing-room.

"I've always enjoyed my football and I've always enjoyed the banter with the players," he explained. "Maybe I've got to be a little bit detached now, but I'm not going to change my personality. I'll do it my way - I'll have a laugh and a joke with the lads

but if there are tough decisions to be made I'll make them. I'm honest and I can talk to people and I think with those attributes you've got a chance."

So far his record speaks for itself. He is yet to taste defeat as a manager. "But I'm not daft enough to think you can be on top for 90 minutes in every game," he said. "Things go wrong, you've just got to buckle down and work hard and if you've got quality players it will come right eventually."

As a player he regards his greatest moment as the 1986 World Cup, although he blames the Mexican sunshine for finally turning him grey. As a manager his ambitions are a little closer to home: "I know it's an old football cliché, but I just want to get the next game over with."

And what of the future? "They can only sack you, they can't do any more than that."



Peter Reid: relishing dual role

Oldham's surrender enables West Ham to climb back on top

By PETER ROBINSON

West Ham United 2
Oldham Athletic 0

IF EVER a defeat was painless, then this, it seems, was it. Oldham Athletic may have just lost the leadership of the second division and given one of the most lukewarm displays they are likely to produce this season, but Joe Royle, their manager, emerged from the dressing-room with the air of a man still savouring his Christmas turkey.

Relaxed, almost genial, Royle greeted defeat with an easy smile and a shrug. "Having lost, it doesn't mean we won't go up," he said, with unanswerable logic. "We are still in a great position. We can play a lot better than we did, but then today wasn't our day. There will be other days that are. Nothing has changed."

And little has West Ham and Oldham are still setting the pace for the rest to follow,

there is still a sizeable gap between second and third in the table, and the two clubs continue to play the most advanced and attractive football outside the first division.

For West Ham, of course, the victory was almost essential. Their 21-match unbeaten run had come to an end last week, and two defeats on the trot would have posed some awkward questions. Excellent goals by Tony Morley and Stuart Slater provided the most emphatic of answers before the inquisition could get under way.

With that one blemish providing West Ham's motivation, and the support of their largest home crowd of the season adding a further spur, the odds were, in retrospect, heavily weighted in the Londoners' favour. West Ham wanted the victory more than Oldham, and they got it.

Although lacking the injured quartet of Dicks, Martin, Bishop and McAvennie,

their football was intelligent, crisp and constructive. Foster's control at centre half formed the foundation of attacks built from the back and finished, more often than not, with menace by Morley and Quinn.

The lead was established after only ten minutes, Morley controlling Foster's header with his chest before volleying home. It should have been doubled in less than 20 when Quinn saw his lame penalty saved by Hallworth, the goalkeeper, after Morley had been brought down by Barrett.

Oldham stemmed the tide until half-time, often relying on Hallworth and the mercurial Barrett to plug the gaps, only for the defensive dam to be breached again one minute after the interval. Keen found Brooker running free on the right as Oldham stood watching, and his cross-cum-shot was bundled over the line by Slater.

Oldham tried manfully to claw their way back, but though West Ham tired on the cloying surface, a goal was never likely. Currie's tame header at Mikosko was the best effort they could manage, while Hallworth was called on to deny brilliantly Morley, Parris and Slater.

The reaction of the two managers to the result said much about the preceding 90 minutes. "It was an important result for us, because if you lose after a run like ours, you have to bounce back well," Billy Bonds, of West Ham, remarked. Royle was more phlegmatic. "We lost. If we lose three more games out of the next 22, then we will go up. We knew that before we started."

WEST HAM UNITED: 1. Mikosko; 2. Brooker; 3. Parris; 4. G. Foster; 5. Hallworth; 6. Quinn; 7. Slater; 8. Morley; 9. Barrett; 10. Slater. OLDHAM ATHLETIC: 1. Hallworth; 2. Barrett; 3. Slater; 4. Quinn; 5. Foster; 6. Parris; 7. Slater; 8. Morley; 9. Barrett; 10. Slater.

Wolves endanger Sheffield's hopes

THEY might be unbeaten at Hillsborough, but Sheffield Wednesday's inability to make home advantage tell is threatening to ruin their second division promotion hopes (Keith Pike writes).

Having gone 2-0 up inside 25 minutes, they had a defender, John Harkes, sent off for a late tackle on Dennis, and then allowed Wolverhampton Wanderers to fight back and earn a point.

Paul Cook set up Steve Bull for a 72nd-minute equaliser. Wednesday have forfeited third place to Middlesbrough. The team won 1-0 at Ipswich Town with a 55th-minute header from Baird, while Notts County maintained their challenge at Blackpool, courtesy of Barrett's goal in the twentieth minute.

Bristol Rovers and Bristol

City both won again yesterday. Nicky Morgan scored twice against his former club as City won 4-1 against Peterborough at Ashton Gate, while Carl Saunders's third-minute goal gave Rovers a 1-0 triumph at Brighton.

Millwall's run of ten games without a win came to an end as Teddy Sheringham scored both goals, one a penalty, in a 2-1 win against Leicester City at The Den.

Steve Perryman continues to exceed Watford's wildest dreams. Yesterday they beat Port Vale 2-1 at Vicarage Road to extend their unbeaten run under Perryman to six matches.

They are replaced at the bottom by Oxford United, who fought back from 2-0 down to lead 3-2 at Wolves, though, Hall City, only to concede an equaliser.

Woking, the Surrey side who play West Bromwich Albion at the Hawthorns in the third round of the FA Cup on January

5, crushed Watlington 4-0 at Wycombe but they stayed behind by Chelsea as Bath beat Yeovil 2-1 and Fisher Athletic drew 1-1 at Welling, where they had Jerry Murphy sent off.

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Kettering remain way out in front

KETTERING kept their 12-point lead at the head of the GM Vauxhall Cup by beating 1-1 with Boston yesterday afternoon after their closest pursuers, Barnet and Colchester, had played out a 0-0 draw at Layer Road in the morning. (Walter Gammie writes).

Paul Cavell put Boston into a fifth minute lead which Kettering did not cancel until Trevor Slack scored in the 57th minute.

Kim Casey scored both goals

for Cheltenham as they won 2-0 at Wycombe but they stayed behind by Chelsea as Bath beat Yeovil 2-1 and Fisher Athletic drew 1-1 at Welling, where they had Jerry Murphy sent off.

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Taking a trip: Morley is brought down by Barrett at Upton Park but Quinn missed the penalty for West Ham

Bolton steal respectable draw

By KEITH BLACKMORE

Southend United 1
Bolton Wanderers 1

RAIN, wind and a slippery pitch made life difficult at Roots Hall yesterday but Southend United and Bolton Wanderers managed to put on a respectable show for the holiday crowd.

The result flattered Bolton and they needed a late, lucky equaliser to achieve it, but Southend could draw comfort from the fact that they had lost 2-0 to Reading.

WITH the third division leaders, Southend United, held at home by Bolton Wanderers, second-placed Grimsby Town had hopes of narrowing the gap when they travelled to Reading (Keith Pike writes). But the side which scored five against

Bournemouth last Saturday could only manage one shot on target this time, while at the other end a goal in each half by Gooding condemned them to a 2-0 defeat.

With Leyton Orient's scheduled game at Bury postponed, Brentford took the opportunity to move into third place with a 2-0 victory at Birmingham City, but not before Kevin Godfrey became the latest player to suffer the consequences of committing a professional foul. Godfrey was dismissed after

just 11 minutes, but Gary Bissett scored both their second-half goals, and Birmingham supporters, who have seen their side win just two of their last 16 games, staged a post-match demonstration calling for the resignation of the manager, Dave Mackay.

Adrian Hughes, of Preston North End, was also sent off in the 2-2 draw at Crewe Alexandra for a professional foul.

Three goals in the first 26 minutes enabled Cambridge United to beat Tranmere 3-1 and leapfrog over them into sixth place.

Struggling Fulham, without a league win since October, rarely looked like ending that run in a dismal goalless draw with Bradford City at Craven Cottage. Bournemouth and Mansfield Town also drew 0-0, but there were better news for the bottom club, Rotherham United, who upset Chester 2-1.

Six of the scheduled 12 matches in the fourth division were postponed - including those involving the top five sides - and that opened the way for Doncaster Rovers to take over the leadership. Their 3-0 home win over Maidstone United took them from sixth place to first. The one disappointment for Billy Brown's team was that only 2,717 people saw them do it.

The biggest winners of the day were Scarborough, who beat Halifax Town 4-1, while Hereford United came from behind to win 2-1 at Wrexham.

Phil Kirk's header from Combe's corner flying just over the bar, but six minutes after the break they almost took the lead. Cowdill and Reeves combined on the left to produce a cross, which, after several deflections, reached Phil Kirk, who forced a fine save from Sansome.

Butler responded with a header, then a 25-yard shot, both of which M. Spence saved before Southend took the lead in the 67th minute. Clark's freekick was headed on by Angell to Benjamin, who chested the ball into the path of Tilson. His volley from 12 yards gave Felgate no chance.

That should have been that, especially since Southend had the wind at their backs but Phil Neal, the Bolton manager, sent on Green for Combe and was rewarded five minutes from full time.

Felgate's long clearance fell between Prior and Sansome. Reeves intervened and Green was left to tap in the equaliser.

David Webb, the manager of Southend, was disappointed. "Goals in the last five minutes of each of our last two matches have cost us five points," he said. "Still, I thought both teams were a credit to the third division."

It took considerable effort on the part of the ground staff to transfer the senior match to the No. 2 pitch on a day when driving rain and strong wind made playing conditions difficult.

In fact, the under-21 match between the two sides had to be abandoned after 20 minutes. The veterans match, which began in the day, ended 1-1, so that everything depended on the outcome of the senior game.

DRAGON First round (drawings in brackets): 1. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 2. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 3. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 4. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 5. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 6. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 7. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 8. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 9. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 10. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 11. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 12. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 13. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 14. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 15. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 16. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 17. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 18. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 19. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 20. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 21. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 22. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 23. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 24. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 25. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 26. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 27. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 28. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 29. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 30. Bolton (10) v 1. Bury (10); 31. 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● RUGBY UNION 23
● RACING 24-25
● FOOTBALL 26-27

SPORT

Concern mounts about Stewart

Gower's survival instinct to fore

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE SCOREBOARD

England won toss

	ENGLAND	AUSTRALIA
* G A Gooch lbw b Alderman	20	2 39 33
Playing no shot, ball brushed pad		
M A Atherton c Boon b Reid	0	15 11
Turned short ball straight to short leg		
W Larkins c Healy b Reid	64	5 218 145
Altering drive at ball wide of off stump		
R A Smith c Healy b Hughes	30	3 121 86
Faint edge went between bat and pad		
D J Gower not out	73	4 203 134
A J Stewart not out	42	2 130 103
Extras (b 2, nb 8)	10	
Total (4 wickets, 84 overs, 355 mins)	229	

19 C Russell, P A J DeFreitas, A R C Fraser, P C R Tufnell and D E Malcolm to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12 (Gooch 11), 2-50 (Larkins 8), 3-109 (Larkins 53), 4-152 (Gower 32).

BOWLING: Alderman 22-5-50-1 (nb2) (10-2-20-1), (7-2-16-0), (5-1-14-0); Field 22-3-71-2 (nb1) (5-2-24-1), (7-2-12-0), (6-0-24-1), (3-1-11-0); Hughes 22-4-56-1 (nb2) (6-2-16-0), (7-2-18-1), (2-0-10-0), (0-0-23-0); Matthews 11-4-31-0 (4-0-24-0), (7-4-7-0); Waugh 6-2-19-0 (one spell).

AUSTRALIA: G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, D M Jones, A R Border, S R Waugh, G R J Matthews, T A Healy, M G Hughes, T M Alderman, S A Field.
Umpires: A R Crafter and P J McConnell.

MELBOURNE — Mick Stewart, the England team manager, will be examined by a doctor here today for the second time in six days amid growing concern about his health.

Stewart, aged 58, was unable to watch his side's batting performance against Australia on the first day of the second Test match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground because of another bad headache.

"Mick attended the 8am team meeting in the hotel but he was still not feeling that good and we advised him to go back to his room," the tour manager, Peter Lush, said.

Stewart has been suffering from headaches since late last week when he spent 24 hours in a Melbourne hospital undergoing tests. His problems had started a few days earlier with numbness in the right leg soon after he had apparently recovered from a chest infection. The check-up revealed nothing untoward.

"It is now thought the headaches might be connected with the original viral infection and nothing to do with the tests he had in hospital, which can have side effects," Lush said.

Stewart has spent most of the past two days in bed and has not taken a practice since last Thursday.

England, meanwhile, picked up another two injuries today to add to their growing collection. Mike Atherton, hit on a finger, and the captain, Graham Gooch, who twisted an ankle, are both under treatment from the physiotherapist, Lawrie Brown.

David Gower, who passed 3,000 runs in Ashes Tests on the first day, resumed his innings today needing another 165 runs to become the sixth batsman to pass 8,000 runs in all Tests. The others are Gavaskar (10,122), Border (8,710), Boycott (8,114), Javed Miandad (8,064) and Sobers (8,032).

The popular conception of David Gower as a man happiest in languor and lethargy was surely destroyed yesterday. For the third time in 18 months he confronted a serious threat to his Test career with a tenacious innings and, this time, the gain was not exclusively his.

Christmas had found this England party at its lowest ebb and Gower showing his shortest fuse. England could barely permit 11 fully fit men from their swollen party of 18 for the critical second Test against Australia and Gower, unable to shake off his second injury in a month, publicly bared his frustration at a tour slipping away from him.

His outburst during the Christmas morning net practice was not so much about insensitive television crews as a sensitively bruised right wrist which had refused to heal. By the time he dressed up as Biggles for the team's lunch party it seemed unlikely that he would be performing any Boxing Day heroics.

But Gower's sense of self-preservation has served him well before. At Lord's last June, when his captaincy was being undermined by a threat of a heavy defeat and a threatened walkout from a press conference, he made a redeeming century. At the Oval in September he took the last available chance to reserve his place on this tour with another hawkish hundred.

Yesterday morning, he played with some discomfort through a gentle net, spent a considerable time in lonely meditation on the Melbourne Cricket Ground outfield and then went into a prolonged, animated conference with Graham Gooch and Allan Lamb which ended in backslaps and handshakes all round.

Gooch had told Gower that the team needed him. Gower had told Gooch that he wanted to play and felt able to do a job. The deal was done, and with the aid of regular

painkilling tablets, Gower batted 203 minutes and helped revive this Ashes series as a contest.

It is too soon to say more than this. By the standards to which we have become accustomed these past few weeks, England enjoyed a champagne first day which reduced 50,000 Australians, who had come to pick at the Christmas carcass, to a subdued and respectful silence. By any normal standards it was an evenly fought opening day which left both teams believing they had a chance.

What can be said with certainty is that it was a good toss for Gooch to have won, this being a pitch of placid pace and bounce which may even take turn later, and that England's overnight 239 for four was actually worth 20 or 30 more.

The outfield, recently relaid after a punishing season of Australian Rules football, was so spongy and slow that the boundary was reached only 15 times in a day containing 17 threes and one all-run four. Of Gower's first 20 runs, 18 came in three for shots he would normally have expected to carry easily to the rope.

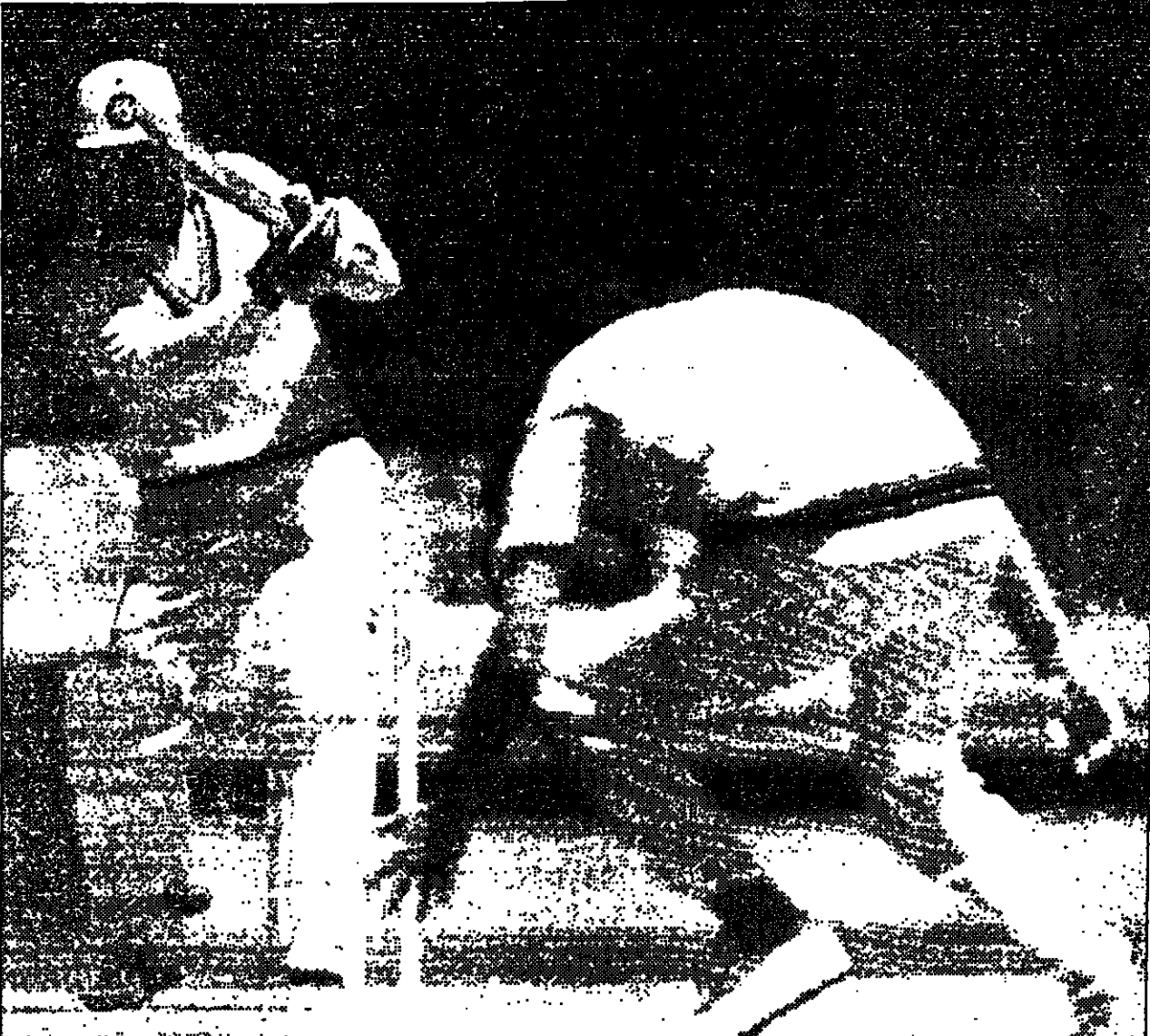
England's other main con-

tributor was one who profited from the injury dilemma. Wayne Larkins would not have made the side if Lamb had been fit and, even reprimanded, he was obliged to abdicate his opening spot and drop reluctantly to No. 3. It turned out to be the making of him.

Atherton, preferred as Gooch's partner, continued his disappointing first tour by falling to Reid without scoring. It was the classic example of how a left-arm bowler generating a little extra bounce can disorientate the most correct of players; Atherton was square-on and playing too low as the ball climbed into his glove and looped to short leg.

Gooch leg-before to Alderman is not the most curious of dismissals, having featured in three of the 1989 Tests, but Gooch will be doubly deflated to fall this way here, as he adjudged an incoming badly enough to play no shot. At 30 for two, the customary calamities seemed to beckon.

Allan Border, the Australia captain, had been speaking before the game of showing England no mercy but that is what, unintentionally, he now proceeded to do. Larkins was



Unexpected bounty: Larkins, a late replacement for the injured Lamb, drives past Alderman in his best innings for England

at sea against Reid, playing awkwardly across the line and squaring the ball into the off side, and he must hardly have been able to credit his luck when the left-armed bowler was rested after only five overs.

None of the other bowlers posed Larkins the same problems, and by lunch, he and Smith had added 59 with increasing conviction. With Larkins's footwork more emphatic than at any stage of the tour, this was a partnership one could see developing but,

at 109, Smith played forward to Hughes and the ball took a deflection as it darted between bat and pad.

Border now showed his innovative side. Alderman, bowling inswingers to Larkins, had a silly mid-off and two men short, in front of the wicket, on the leg side. Hughes, angling the ball across Gower, operated to a seven-two off-side field including two gullies and a predatory short extra-cover.

Deservedly, however, it was

Reid who claimed Larkins's wicket, albeit with a ball wide of the off stump, which provoked an unworthy flat-footed drive.

In four previous Tests on the Melbourne ground Gower had failed to reach 50, a surprising statistic for someone with a splendid record against Australia. When he did so yesterday, he became only the second Englishman, after Jack Hobbs, to complete 3,000 runs in Ashes Tests.

Superficially cool, internally

fretful, Gower chided himself for every indiscretion and Alec Stewart for every error as the fourth-wicket stand carried England towards a position they had hardly dared contemplate when play began.

By the close, glory be, even the luck which had appeared to have left them in recent weeks had returned, Stewart surviving two half-chances by dint of the fielders he accidentally located, and Gower escaping a confident leg-before claim by Reid.

Weather takes its toll

EIGHT Football League matches fell foul of the unseasonal Boxing Day weather yesterday, two in the third division and six in the fourth. Most were postponed because of waterlogged pitches but Torquay United's match with Lincoln City was called off because of storms.

Oldham's rugby league match at home to Rochdale went ahead after police closed two areas of the ground and moved 2,000 supporters amid fears the wind could blow the roof off the main stand. Five

Stones Bitter championship matches did not go ahead and the Bank holiday club rugby union programme was also hit.

The day's eight race meetings all survived, although at Wolverhampton the stewards delayed the start of the third race while they held an inspection in strong winds and heavy rain. Racing continued, but with the remaining races starting 15 minutes late. At Market Rasen a downpour held up racing for 20 minutes halfway through card.

Grobbelaar act of charity

By CLIVE WHITE

Queen's Park Rangers... 1
Liverpool... 1

BRUCE Grobbelaar, responding to the seasonal mood of goodwill to all men, gave hope to those at both ends of the first division yesterday with an own-goal which enabled Queen's Park Rangers to clinch only their second point out of a possible 30 at Loftus Road yesterday.

The Liverpool goalkeeper had already hinted that he was in one of his more extravagant moods when a header in the 67th minute by Mark Falco struck the inside of his far post only to rebound obligingly. But as he stooped to collect, the ball bounced off his shins into the net.

A draw, Rangers's second in succession, was no more than the struggling London club deserved. Indeed, during a rousing finale they even threatened to win as Liverpool's defence assumed that occasional harassed look under pressure. Rangers, consequently, became only the fourth club this season to take points off Liverpool.

It did not prevent Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, from muttering afterwards something about leaving Rangers dead and buried had Liverpool taken their chances while ignoring the fact that Rangers had one

First division leaders

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	18	14	3	1	38	15	45
Sheff Wed	19	12	7	0	36	9	41
Cardiff	19	11	6	2	30	18	39
Sheff Utd	19	10	6	3	33	18	36
Sheff Utd	19	9	5	5	29	21	31
Sheff Utd	19	9	5	5	29	21	31
Sheff Utd	19	8	6	5	33	35	29
Sheff Utd	19	8	6	5	33	35	29
Sheff Utd	19	8	6	5	33	35	29
Sheff Utd	19	8	6	5	33	35	29

or two of their own. Unlike his goalkeeper, Dalglish was not in a mood to be charitable towards Rangers, of whom he said: "They'll have to win some games to give themselves a wee bit of confidence."

But this draw will have been as good as a victory to Rangers' morale, suddenly uplifted since the arrival of Bobby Gould, as assistant to Don Howe, and two new signings at centre back in

Tilson and Peacock. The latter, who did not play yesterday, has become, all too quickly, a victim of the wicked misfortune with injuries which has curiously manifested itself among Rangers' central defenders.

Try as he might, though, Howe could not suppress the optimism that he and his players must surely be feeling. Though again they came off second best in the first half, they kept their goal intact, a rare achievement these days, and had the half's outstanding goal-scoring chance when Wegerle headed towards an empty net after Grobbelaar had horribly misjudged Falco's lofted pass. But Nicol got back in the nick of time to clear his line.

It seemed inconceivable, though, that with Rush, by his own admission in the best form of his life, Liverpool

would not eventually strike lucky. To play as well as Rush did, in all facets of a forward's game, with such an abrasive marker as Maddix in close attendance, took some doing. Before the half was out Maddix's frustration had vented itself in a foul upon the Welshman for which he was booked.

By comparison, Barnes had done nothing when three minutes after half-time Staunton sent him in pursuit of a ball playing through the inside left channel. Sjeisjak, the Rangers goalkeeper, fearing that Tillson would not arrive in time to make the interception, raced from his goal-line only to be beaten to the ball by Barnes who touched it just inside the far post.

Grobbelaar should not be held entirely responsible for Rangers' equaliser: Falco was in splendid isolation when he received Sinton's perfect cross. His subtle, flicked header, reminiscent of so many he has scored down the years, deserved a goal which, doubtless, he will claim "like any good forward" as Dalglish remarked later.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS: J Sjeisjak, D Burdick, R Sanson, A Tilson, G Connor, D Maddix, A Wegerle, S Barker, M Falco, A Wegerle, A Sinton.
LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar, G Hyman, D Burrows, S Nicol, S Staunton, G Gillespie, P Renshaw, R Houghton, I Rush, J Barnes, S McManis.
Referee: J Martin.

Arsenal close gap, page 26

Desert Orchid in historic triumph

By RICHARD EVANS

DESERT Orchid silenced his doubters in glorious style yesterday with a record-breaking fourth victory in the King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton Park.

The thrilling sight of the nation's favourite racehorse spreading the opposition with spring-heeled jumping and late acceleration will remain etched in the memories of the large Boxing Day crowd for years. He beat Toby Tobias by 12 lengths with The Fellow, the French challenger, a further five lengths third.

Desert Orchid deserves immense credit for an outstanding training performance, and he was as moved as anyone when the crowd hailed Desert Orchid's return to the winner's enclosure with a deafening roar. With tears welling in his eyes, the Whitsbury trainer said: "It was wonderful. Like most people here I am very proud and excited."

"There was nothing flashy about the performance. He was tired a long way out — a lot of them were — but he kept finding more and kept jumping. I am sure that even at his age he will improve between now and the spring. He is a great horse, a magical horse."

Desert Orchid, who has now topped £500,000 in winning prize-money, will be aimed for

the Cheltenham Gold Cup for which he is a best-priced 8-1 with Corals. Elsworth ruled out the Grand National.

The race was effectively decided seven fences from home when Sabin Du Loir fell, having been three lengths clear and travelling well. For a dreadful moment Elsworth feared his charge would be brought down but Desert Orchid sidestepped his sprawling rival and set off for home.

Dunwoody allowed his mount a breather before entering the straight about three lengths clear of Toby Tobias. Desert Orchid then quickened and, like so often before, left his challengers trailing in his wake.

After the pre-race doubts and fears, talk of retirement gave way to hopes and plans for the future. Both Elsworth and Richard Burridge, his owner, talked of returning to Kempton in 12 months to try and win the King George for a fifth time. "Every time the Press doubts him it's like a green light to go on," Burridge said. "This horse is much better at writing stories than I am. The next twist in the tale will be entirely of his own making."

Desert Orchid, who has now topped £500,000 in winning prize-money, will be aimed for

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Adams can await kind verdict from the public

By GEORGE SIK

COMMENT

THEY say there is no such thing as bad publicity. This is not merely bombastic after-dinner wisdom: there is considerable psychological evidence to support it. Next time you hear a politician complain about an election campaign being undermined by smear stories in the press, tell him to check out his standing in the polls before the mud was slung. The chances are that he was doing worse than he was after the smears. Just getting your name known is usually enough to win you votes.

Tony Adams was sent to prison for four months for reckless and drunken driving. How will he fare when he is released? Only time will tell, but history is on his side. Lester Piggott is racing again with his past all but forgotten. Ben Johnson runs again next month, this time without anabolic steroids.

Who says mud sticks? Ken Dodd can now joke about the Inland

Revenue, demand for Cecil Parkinson's speaking engagements shot up after news of his affair with his secretary, and Sir Ralph Halpern was in no hurry to deny reports of his "five times a night" fling with a model. Fiona Wright.

Has the mud ever stuck? Well, maybe with Willie Johnston after Scotland's terrible performance in the 1978 World Cup. He, too, was accused of taking stimulants and was never the same again. But those were less enlightened times. As for the league leaders, George Best and Alex Higgins, they continue to amuse us with each fresh indiscretion. Jimmy Greaves's recovery from alcoholism has won him the respect and affection of the nation.

But drunken driving? That is a serious offence, and Tony Adams

may fare less well than some. He is not, after all, a particularly colourful character. He plays for a team known for its strength and organisation rather than its flair for the unexpected. He is not a Paul Gascoigne.

Gascoigne is extrovert and extroversion is one of the most studied psychological constructs. Extroverts are outgoing, impulsive and sociable. They love to be with people and play practical jokes. They are well liked. Not only is it almost impossible to imagine Gascoigne in Adams's position but it is hard to imagine that he would ever have received the condemnation that came the way of the Arsenal player.

Of course, Gascoigne has had troubles of one sort or another, but if they do not fit our perception of him as the kid with a heart of gold, they are forgotten.

Similarly, we could never really believe the allegations that Frank

Bough or Drew Barrymore, the little girl in *ET*, snorted cocaine. They may have done, but somehow this does not fit. The resulting unease (cognitive dissonance, as we psychologists call it) is quickly dispelled, as our perception of the world appears to contradict reality and we forget their past.

Scandal is a funny thing in sport or in show business. They say it brought down the Macmillan government. They even say it brought down George Best. Best, though, is now as famous for his drinking as for once having been a great footballer, and he is not one to deny it. He has even worn a T-shirt with a slogan, "I drink to make other people more interesting."

His extroversion is different from Gascoigne's in one respect: where he hits the bottle, Gascoigne cries. This could reflect socially changing patterns of emotional control. These days sportsmen cry

more openly. Chris Eubank, the boxer, and the former Scottish hardman, Joe Jordan, being recent examples.

The public has warmed to this openness. A recent survey conducted by the occupational psychologists, Saville and Holdsworth, for whom I work, revealed that men and women are no different in the degree to which they express their emotions.

This is where sympathy may be in short supply for Adams. He, and the Arsenal side for which he plays, have long been characterised as unexciting, unemotional, stiff-upper-lipped sportsmen. The public are less likely to feel sorry for this breed of player at a time when he needs it most.

Dr George Sik is a consultant psychologist with particular interest in personality and sport. He is a keen football supporter.

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Threat to zoo

MP indicted

Nissan split

Brealey quits

Lewis injury

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